

THE TIMES

No. 65,393 MONDAY OCTOBER 9 1995

Major leads the fight to salvage Blackpool conference after MP crosses floor to Labour

Tory Left fires warning shot after defection

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE aftermath of the shock eve-of-conference defection of Alan Howarth, the Conservative MP, to Labour, the Tory Left gave a warning shot as many as 40 Tory MPs shared Mr Howarth's misgivings over the Government's social agenda.

Leading figures such as Sir Edward Heath indicated that while they had no intention of following Mr Howarth's example, they were worried about a fresh lurch to the Right in the face of Tory Blair's reinvigorated party.

Amid ministerial anger at the Stratford-on-Avon MPs "vindicative" act, John Major last night led a concerted counter-offensive by the Tory high command aimed at rescuing the Blackpool conference, which starts tomorrow, from being plunged into a fresh bout of internal feuding.

After a private meeting with Mr Howarth, Mr Major said: "I profoundly disagree with his analysis of the Conservative Party, but nothing will distract us from the task ahead. We have an election to win, and we intend to win it."

The message from party chiefs, stunned more by the timing of Mr Howarth's move than its substance, was that the Government could not afford to be unsettled by the actions of a maverick backbencher when it faced such a powerful challenge from Mr Blair. The Prime Minister is expected to reinforce this warning tonight when he addresses Tory agents in Blackpool.

But despite the efforts being made to put what has been billed as a showcase conference back on track, there was genuine alarm that Mr Howarth's move might have brought forward the date of the next election. Mr Major wants to wait until the spring of 1997, but with his majority down to seven, he knows that four more by-elections in Conservative seats would deprive him of a majority and force him into a poll next year.

Mr Howarth, 51, a former minister who has moved from

Departure cuts majority to 7

Alan Howarth's defection effectively reduces the Government's overall majority to seven. This means that if four Tory-held seats were lost at by-elections in the next year, Mr Major could be forced to go to the country. Since the last election, there have been six by-elections in Tory-held seats. All of these have fallen to opposition parties.

the Right of the party to Mr Blair's bosom, hinted on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost* that other disillusioned Tories might join him in the unprecedented act.

But few Conservatives agreed, describing Mr Howarth as a "loner" and doubting that any other backbencher would show such naked disloyalty to the "club" and sever social and political bonds.

After the success of Labour's conference in Brighton last week, ministers had been anxious to use Blackpool to highlight their readiness to respond to public disquiet and to bring new ideas.

"We've taken a punch on the nose," one Tory strategist said, "... but by tomorrow night we'll be setting out our stall again."

Privately, ministers were furious, saying that Mr Howarth's high moral tone sat

ill with his "mean, conniving" decision to time his exit at the point of maximum embarrassment and damage to a party he had served in Parliament for 12 years.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, denounced Mr Howarth's move as "vindicative". Alan Clark, a former minister, accused his "batty" ex-colleague of "an act of complete treachery".

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, said that Mr Howarth's decision to ally himself with the likes of Denis Skinner and John Prescott after being a member of the Thatcherite No Turning Back Group was "bizarre" and "eccentric".

But the Left, which fears that Mr Major has been strong-armed into conceding clear blue water with Mr Blair, made clear that Mr Howarth was not a voice in the wilderness.

Sir Edward urged like-minded One Nation Tories not to follow Mr Howarth's example but to "do everything we possibly can to persuade the party to carry out the policies which we used to have".

Peter Temple-Morris, leader of the Lollard grouping of Centre-Left Tories, said that the MP's defection was a symptom of the strain in the "Centre-Left of the party". Jim Lester, a former minister who has expressed unease about government policy, said that while he would not be crossing the floor, he understood Mr Howarth's thinking.

Labour lead: Labour has increased its lead over the Conservatives to 30 points, according to the latest Gallup poll for *The Daily Telegraph*. Labour is on 56.5 per cent, the Tories on 26.5 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 14 per cent. The Labour lead has widened from 28 points last month in the survey taken just before the party conference.

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Alan Howarth with daughter Catherine outside his home at Lower Tysoe, near Stratford, yesterday. He joked about learning the Red Flag

Staid Stratford rocked by latest affair

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

ALAN HOWARTH may have praised his local party of Stratford-upon-Avon for their loyalty and understanding yesterday, but the affair was as much of an embarrassment as when a previous Tory incumbent admitted sharing a girlfriend with a Russian.

Many can remember the shame when John Profumo's sexual antics helped the downfall of Harold Macmillan's Government in 1963.

The idea that another of their MPs could repeat the disastrous scenario three decades later by finding a worse bedfellow — the Labour Party — with which to disgrace and fracture the Tory party, made them blanch.

Don Rushton, the Tory chairman who was told of Mr Howarth's elopement to Labour only on Saturday night, had gathered his grey and gaunt gaggle of loyalists for an emergency meeting at nine o'clock on Sunday morning at the pristine Tory headquarters. Dragged away from

games of golf and pruning the roses, they were spitting. "He is no longer one of us," an elderly female stalwart said.

"We licked all those envelopes to get him his vast majority and he hasn't even apologised for this humiliation." Another added: "Traitor and quivering are not strong enough words."

Most of those present had helped to choose the charming right-wing Mr Howarth out of 450 candidates in 1983.

Then he seemed the perfect family man for the Tudor gabled market town where there is still a demand for white kid gloves, croquet is their major vice, and people still open doors for tourists. They thought he would support their demands for tax cuts, not start asking for help for single mothers and the homeless.

After two hours of fraught discussion, the chairman emerged having changed into a formal suit to issue a terse statement saying that it was with "extreme regret" that

they registered Mr Howarth's change of heart, and adding words like "disappointed" and "astonished".

He refused to pose under a picture of Winston Churchill and shivered as he stepped into the sunshine.

Mr Howarth, meanwhile, appeared to be basking in every moment of his new love affair.

Whisked into the BBC headquarters in Shepherd's Bush by limousine for the *Frost Programme*, he joked with the make-up woman before delivering his crushing indictment of his former party — still with a smile.

After a hearty BBC cooked breakfast, he got the chauffeur to pick up his daughter Catherine, 21, from Oxford and they spent the day pottering around his Warwickshire farmhouse where he joked that he would be learning the *Red Flag*.

He offered waiting journalists tea and biscuits, changed into cords and proffered his

daughter as a more appealing photo. Posing good-naturedly for the late-arriving television crews, he learnt against his gate.

Ten miles away, in a small post-war terraced house on the outskirts of Stratford, there was chaos among the small band of local Labour activists. They do not even have a headquarters and the first thing Brenda Peck, the local party secretary, knew about their new member was a wake-up phone call from Sky

Television. As she washed up glasses by the sink, she said: "We were delighted, of course. We've been celebrating. It will be a lot of work, but he didn't sound barmy on TV and we're looking forward to working with him."

Most constituents were just bewildered. Did they have an MP or not? "If even Tory MPs start swapping sides there must be something right about Labour," said Caroline Roberts, a housewife from Henley-on-Arden.

f
Faber and Faber
congratulate
Seamus Heaney
on winning the
Nobel Prize for
Literature
1995



Girl of 12 dupes Tangier gunman

Charlean Barker, 12, confronted a gunman who shot dead two British tourists at a hotel in Morocco. She survived by feigning death when the man opened fire on her in the corridor.

Charlean was woken by gunshots at the Tarik Hotel near Tangier. The gunman, an off-duty police inspector, had killed Martin Gower, 62, in the hotel bar, and wounded another woman. He was still at large last night. Page 5

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Powell campaign comes to Britain

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND IAN MURRAY

GENERAL Colin Powell, the clear opinion poll favourite to be the next president of the United States, arrived in London last night.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is ostensibly visiting London and Paris this week to promote his best-selling memoirs, but America's most celebrated black man is using the occasion to promote his image as a credible leader of his country. A poll published today by *Time/CNN* places him ten per cent ahead of President Clinton if he decides to run as a Republican. The poll shows the retired general is more popular with whites than with blacks. President Clinton is still the preferred candidate of 55 per cent of coloured Americans.

In a three-way race, with General Powell standing as an independent, the poll shows he is the choice of 35 per cent, four per cent more than the

President, and 13 per cent ahead of Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader.

General Powell's first appointment this morning is at the BBC *Today* studios for the first in a series of interviews in which he will set out his political philosophy.

London and Paris are the last stops in a triumphant 25-city tour, run on military lines, which has taken him all over the United States. From liberal Boston to California's conservative Orange County, tens of thousands of people have queued for hours to get a glimpse of him. The US media, which considers a Dole-Clinton race an even drearier prospect than Bush-Dukakis in 1988, has been positively adulatory.

In a month General Powell has rocketed to the top of almost every poll and is now, according to *The Washington Post*, more popular than the Pope.

Bosnia battles in ceasefire run-up

Bosnia's warring factions fought on for territory before the frontlines are frozen by the impending ceasefire.

Heavy fighting between the Bosnian Army and the separatist Bosnian Serbs broke out, with artillery, rockets and cluster bombs being used. The Bosnian Serbs said the ceasefire was being endangered by the intervention of 4,000 troops from Croatia. Page 11

Chancellor tells IMF of tax cuts

The Chancellor rejected the view of the International Monetary Fund that Britain was in danger of "slippage" in its efforts to reduce public borrowing.

Speaking in Washington at the annual meeting of the IMF, he hinted strongly that he would cut income tax in next month's Budget. He told a press conference that his priority would be to cut the marginal rate of income tax. Page 40

'Gnomes' threaten revenge on franc

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, has blamed "the gnomes of London" for speculation that sent the franc tumbling last week.

In an attack which recalled Harold Wilson's bitter onslaught on "the gnomes of Zurich" for undermining the pound, M Juppé said that he would not cut the French deficit to please the markets.

The anti-British line was taken up by some French newspapers, with one vivid weekend caricature of John O'Money, the London foreign exchange dealer who goes out for a long liquid lunch and then wantonly tries to bury the franc. But it does nothing to help M Juppé's cause. Currency dealers will launch another attack on the franc this week with even more glee because of the Prime Minister's ill-advised remarks.

John Shepperd, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe, last night

dismissed the description. "These days, you are more likely to find a forex dealer flexing his muscles in a gym, not raising pints."

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, said: "You don't need to be a gnome to work out that the franc is overvalued. Anyone who has been on holiday in France knows that."

M Juppé has more to fear from the teetotal London gnome. A sober look at France's economic dilemma exposes just how vulnerable he is.

To an extent, M Juppé's target is the right one. He is saddled with the unfortunate fact that the vast bulk of European foreign exchange dealing takes place in London, and Britain is instinctively Euro-sceptic. *Entente cordiale* has never been that cordial.

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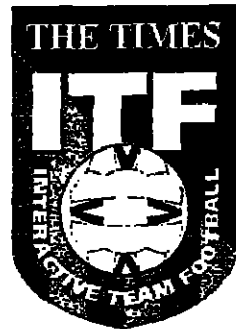
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guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO BE WON

Major
hardens
line on
federal
EuropeBy NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR toughened his opposition to a federal Europe in a move last night aimed at establishing clear water between the Tories and Tony Blair's resurgent Labour Party.

The Prime Minister said that Britain would opt out of any moves towards a European superstate if next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC) to review the Maastricht treaty pressed ahead with political union.

His announcement, made in a newspaper article and to be amplified in his speech to the Tory conference in Blackpool on Friday, marked a toughening of the Government's opposition to federalism. Up to now, Mr Major



Major: pleasing sceptics

that Europe was a "vital part of our national interest".

Mr Major's tough stance will please Tory Eurosceptics, who are planning a show of strength on the conference fringe with meetings featuring figures such as John Redwood, Norman Lamont and most of the former whipless rebels.

But despite promises by the sceptics that they will moderate their anti-European rhetoric, ministers are worried they will not be able to match the impression of harmony and purpose given by Labour in Brighton.

Mr Major will make a keynote speech to party agents tonight and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, will try to rally the party on Tuesday in a speech to the full conference.

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine will speak on Wednesday and Thursday respectively before Mr Major winds up on Friday. The Prime Minister will also underline his commitment to making Britain the world's "enterprise centre".

The conference slogan will be "Our Nation's Future, and every minister has been asked to announce at least two new policies. The aim is to give the impression of a busy administration bursting with ideas for the new century, so countering Mr Blair's "young Britain" vision.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will lay the Cenotaph wreath on Remembrance Day instead of John Major, who will be at the Commonwealth conference in New Zealand.

THE TORY
CONFERENCE

had confined himself to pledging that Britain would veto any further loss of sovereignty to Brussels.

He has now made clear that if that strategy fails and EU states seek a way round the veto by, for instance, forming a political union outside the Treaty of Rome, Britain would play no part in such a manoeuvre.

"If Europe moves to go federalist, a Conservative Britain won't go with it," Mr Major says in an article in *The Sun* today.

The pledge widens the divisions between Tory and Labour policies over Europe.

Mr Blair said at the Labour conference last week that if the IGC resulted in "further steps to integration, the people will have their say, at a general election or in a referendum". But he added

MP told his Labour pair of disillusionment with Conservative Party

How Blair colleagues prepared secret coup

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

AS the Labour conference ended in triumph on Friday, only four senior party figures knew that a bigger story was about to break. Tony Blair, John Prescott, Alastair Campbell, the Labour leader's press secretary, and Anji Hunter, his office chief, knew Alan Howarth had decided to come over.

Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, had a good idea of what was afoot. She is Mr Howarth's "pair" in the Commons - the "Whips" arrangement that allows MPs to miss non-essential votes and was aware of his doubts over whether he still belonged in the Conservative Party. She told Mr Blair that it would be worth talking to him.

The Labour leader imposed an even greater confidentiality over the affair than he had over his stunning decision to scrap Clause Four the previous year. A premature disclosure, as Mr Howarth finally came to terms with his momentous decision, could have ruined everything.

Labour leaders emphasised yesterday that Mr Howarth's decision had been taken without pressure from Mr Blair. The Labour leader, aware for about three weeks that a defection was a serious possibility, saw Mr Howarth on

September 26 and spoke to him on the telephone at length, but was insistent that the former minister had to be allowed to come to his own conclusion. He warned Mr Howarth at the end of an hour-long conversation in Mr Blair's Islington home: "You have to be sure. Conservative Central Office will try to make your life a misery. Your family will be pursued by the press."

Mr Blair and Mr Howarth have known each other well since they both entered the

"I for one will welcome the honourable gentleman when he crosses the floor of the House: the sooner he does so, the better," Greville Janner said. It was then that Miss Hodge played her part as a vital intermediary. Mr Howarth had been speaking to her about his disillusionment with the Tories and asked her whether it would be sensible to have a meeting with Mr Blair.

She thought it was and told him so, and then contacted Mr Blair. Amid great secrecy, the

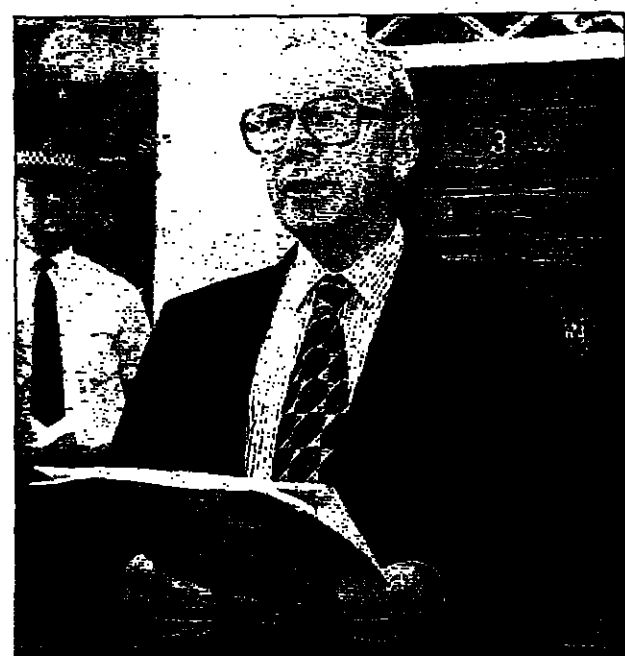
meeting of minds. It appears that Mr Howarth had pretty well come to a decision.

At that point Mr Blair issued his warning. "Do not take the decision lightly. The Tory press will turn against you, your life will be endlessly scrutinised. You must be sure," was his message.

After a few days, Mr Howarth told Mr Blair that he would almost certainly make up his mind during the Labour conference. He asked for the main speeches by front-benchers to be faxed to him. It was confirmed yesterday that those particularly of Mr Blair, containing the claim that Lab-

our was now the party of one-nation politics, of Gordon Brown's on the economy and David Blunkett's on education impressed him the most.

Neither Mr Brown nor Mr Blunkett knew what was happening. By Thursday Mr Howarth was completely decided and told Mr Blair. Mr Prescott was the first senior politician to be given the news by Mr Blair and was delighted. His tub-thumping speech on winding up the conference contained a passage that could have been written for Labour's prize recruit. Urging all those disillusioned with the Tories to join Labour, he said the differ-



Don Rushton, chairman of Mr Howarth's local association, issuing a statement yesterday

ence was between the party of privilege and the party of the people - "one-nation Labour, the party that speaks for the whole country and will govern for the whole country".

Mr Campbell knew that he had a spin doctor's dream. But the secrecy needed to be maintained. Mr Prescott spoke to Mr Howarth twice on Saturday as preparations were made for the news to break. It had been agreed earlier that it would be the through the Sunday newspapers, and Mr Howarth is understood "to have asked that *The Observer* would be the conduit.

During Saturday, with the

news only hours from breaking, Mr Blair brought all his other senior colleagues, Robin Cook, Mr Brown, Mr Blunkett, and even a couple of union general secretaries in on the news. The BBC was quietly alerted for Mr Howarth's interview on yesterday's *Breakfast* with Frost programme to be arranged.

One of the great coups had been prepared. Mr Howarth laboured long and hard on his decision. When a senior political journalist asked him on the day before the Commons recess began how he would spend his time he replied: "I am going to think."

Path across the floor is strewn with political casualties

By IAN MURRAY



Lord Prentice says he was true to his beliefs

LORD PRENTICE, the last MP to cross from the government to opposition benches, last night supported Alan Howarth's decision to follow the same path, even though it was in an opposite direction to his own.

"I agree with Churchill, who also crossed the floor of the House, that an MP's duty is to his country, his constituency and his party - in that order," he said.

"If you reach a point where you believe your party is wrong for your country and constituency then you honestly have no option but to change

sides. I was called a traitor but I don't see it that way. If I hadn't moved over I would have been treacherous to my own beliefs."

Reg Prentice was MP for the safe Labour seat at Newham North East and a Cabinet minister to 1976 before deciding in 1977 to join the Conservative opposition. He stayed on as MP in Newham until the 1979 general election, when he fought and won Daventry as a Tory and was immediately appointed Social Security Minister in the first Thatcher government.

OTHER DEFECTORS

The path across the Commons from one side of the floor has been trodden by some illustrious names of the past, including Gladstone and Churchill, who switched from Tory to Liberal and then back to Tory.

There have been about 70 defections over the past 60 years, including one Tory and 27 Labour MPs who joined the Social Democratic Party when it was founded in 1981. Swapping sides or defecting has usually proved a bad career move. Bruce Douglas-Mann, one of the first SDP

defectors, lost the by-election when he decided he should re-contest his Mitcham and Morden seat in 1981, and only three of the 27 other defectors then survived the 1983 general election.

Lord Prentice is one of a very few to have changed sides and managed to win a seat with another party. Another is John Horam, a junior public service minister who served in the last Labour government as a junior transport minister. He spent a few years in the wilderness with the SDP before joining the Conservatives in 1987 and winning the safe Orpington seat at the 1992 general election.

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'My father has been considering this for three years. He does not rush into things'

How solitary walks put Westminster into focus

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ALAN HOWARTH reached his historic decision to defect to the Labour Party during a solitary two-week walking holiday in the West Country last month. Mr. Howarth, whose 28-year-old marriage collapsed in June, went on holiday alone with a rucksack and guide book to contemplate his future in Westminster.

When Mr. Howarth, 51, returned from his break he sat down with his wife and four children to tell them of his decision. None of them tried to talk him out of it.

Mr. Howarth's thoughts had become more focused in the last month as he prepared an in-depth article on the benefits system for a new left-of-centre policy group of Tory MPs. The Mactod group was to be publicly launched at the party conference and Mr. Howarth's article was to be one of the centrepieces of its radical left-of-centre manifesto.

But the launch was delayed because the group had not secured sponsorship for the pamphlet. Mr. Howarth was also concentrating his thoughts for a debate at the Tory party conference, which begins tomorrow, with John Redwood on the future direction of the party.

By the time he returned to his Warwickshire home, he knew that his future lay outside the Tory party. His family

were not surprised when he sat them down to tell them.

His son, James, 18, said last night: "He has been considering this for three years. It is not an instant conversion. It has been a considered and gradual process. My father does not rush into things. He had time to think when he was on his walk. I think we all knew it was coming."

He had left the Government in 1992 to have the freedom to speak out on the benefits system and social security policy, particularly towards the disabled.

The birth of his son, Charlie,

strated in Trafalgar Square. His children wondered if he would leave the Tory party then.

But instead he increasingly rebelled against the Government in the division lobby and wrote a series of critical newspaper articles. But perversely, he was resentful of the fact that John Major did not invite him to return to the ministerial ranks.

His son James, who has been accepted for Oxford to read classics, added: "He became increasingly concerned about the whole range of disabled rights, not just his

came to believe that the Government did not share that view. We are really proud of him."

Peter Temple-Morris, chairman of the Mactod group, said last night: "I spoke to Alan about the pamphlet just before he went on holiday. There was no sign of what was to come."

Mr. Howarth's late father, Tom, also changed sides but in the opposite direction. His father was High Master of St Paul's School, London, personal liaison officer to Field Marshal Montgomery during the war, and senior tutor at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

But he never came to terms with his decision to vote Labour in the 1945 general election. In 1985, three years before his death, he published a book, *Prospect and Reality: Great Britain 1945-55*, which attempted to explain it.

Dominic Hobson, a Tory candidate, who worked on the book, and worked with Alan Howarth when he was director of the research department at Conservative Central Office in 1979, said: "It is hard to imagine what Tom Howarth would make of his son's decision. He was a brilliant academic. Alan Howarth is clever but cold and hard to get to know. The timing of his defection is extraordinary."



Gillian Howarth London yesterday. She supported her husband's decision

Disabled betrayed by Tories, wife says

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND LENA LINTON

GILLIAN HOWARTH said yesterday that she supported her husband's decision and knew he had been struggling with his political affiliations for at least three years. She denied that former minister had suffered an emotional breakdown or was experiencing a "midlife crisis".

She said: "It's a purely political conversion." The couple, who announced in June that they were to separate after 28 years of marriage, discussed his decision at length.

Mrs. Howarth, who teaches English at Westminster School, said: "I fully support what he's done. He's a very honourable man."

Responding to jibes from Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, about his emotional state, she replied: "There's nothing wrong with his state of mind." However, she admitted that having a child with cerebral palsy had changed the way Mr. Howarth viewed Tory health service policy and had served to make him question the effect of government policies.

The daughter of a wealthy Dublin family, she said she felt the Tories had bitterly betrayed disabled people.

'I've taken a decision but I don't apologise'

ALAN HOWARTH explained the reasons behind his decision to join the Labour Party to Sir David Frost yesterday on BBC Television. The following is taken from that interview.

DF: What was the Damascus moment of decision?

AH: I think the Labour Party led by Tony Blair and John Prescott now presents itself very positively, very attractively, as a party warmly committed to social justice, but tough-minded about the realities of governing; the kind of politics that I've always wanted. So I decided to ask Tony Blair if he'd be willing to see me and we had a talk together.

DF: And how did that go?

AH: Well I was encouraged. He asked me some very searching questions. I think he wanted to be clear that if I came and joined the Labour Party I would be doing so for positive reasons, which is certainly the case, and I think he also wanted to be sure that I

understood the down-side... I felt at the end of that conversation that I was indeed on the right track, but I thought that I ought to observe the Labour Party Conference, see what happened. If the Labour Party Conference showed that the Labour Party is indeed a modern party ready for government, inspired by an ethos of fairness and decency but also hard-headed and practical, then I would no longer have any doubt that it was the party that I needed to belong to. That is indeed the case.

DF: Harry Greenway this morning said that you should fight Stratford immediately as a Labour MP. Do you think you should do that?

AH: There have been... 60 or more cases over the last 60 years of sitting MPs who have switched to another party and

on only four other occasions have they fought by-elections... I was elected to serve in this Parliament. I make the judgment that I can speak and I can vote as I judge to be in the best interests of them [my constituents] and the country, speaking as a Labour Member of Parliament.

DF: Do you think you owe a note or a call of apology to the Prime Minister or to others of your colleagues?

AH: Indeed, I do not apologise. I don't think I owe an apology. I've taken a decision. I hope it won't be regarded as priggish or pretentious but I've done this because I actually think it's the right thing to do, so I'm not going to apologise for it.

DF: You'd like to find a Labour seat at the next general election, presumably, or is this your farewell to politics?

AH: You achieve nothing in politics as a loner, you have to work through party... The question for me is whether I can make a useful contribution within the Labour Party.

DF: Do you hope to be a Labour MP after the next election?

AH: I would love that, of course... but I'm a very, very long way from there.

DF: Do you think it's possible that... other Tory MPs may follow your example?

AH: They have to make their own judgment... There are perhaps 30 or 40 backbench Conservative Members of Parliament who I suspect broadly share my views... Of course I would be pleased if some of them were to come to the same conclusion that I've come to.



Alan Howarth talking to Sir David Frost yesterday

Thatcherite stance softened to compassion for weak

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE rhetoric of Alan Howarth has changed beyond recognition in his 12 years as an MP as he moved from the right to the left of the Conservative Party.

One year ago he warned the Government that it faced electoral catastrophe unless it moved to the centre ground of politics which Tony Blair intended to make his own. This was a long way from his early days as a founder member of the Thatcherite No Turning Back Group of MPs.

In his maiden speech in July 1983 he argued: "Inflation is the arch destroyer of jobs. The task of Government is to clear away the obstacles to growth, not to inject inflationary boosts to demand."

In December 1984 he co-signed a letter blaming union activity, the closed shop and Wages Councils for unemployment. In February 1985, supporting Tory restrictions on trade unions, he spoke of teachers' unions "which import methods alien to the profession".

After leaving the Government in 1992 after five years as

a whip and education minister, his public utterances changed. In a series of articles, usually in the *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, he criticised the unaring image and policies of the Government. In October 1993 he wrote: "If we accept, as John Major assuredly does, that we do not want a harsh society, that we need to balance efficiency with humanity, it follows that ministers

must face down the retributive right."

In November 1993: "The Conservative Party must not be obsessed with reducing public expenditure. The party should renew a more expansive and generous tradition which recognises that our society is interdependent, and that it is the duty of the strong to help the weak."

March 1994: "The Government told MPs that anti-discrimination legislation would lead to unquantifiable

costs for businesses and taxpayers. We cannot afford morally or economically to continue as we are. The Government must act decisively to change the culture."

October 1994: "There is no alternative for the Conservatives, other than electoral catastrophe, but to contest the centre ground on which Mr Blair intends Labour to pitch its tents."

January 1995: the Government was destroying the traditions of "one nation Toryism" by reducing welfare spending. July 5, 1995: a 20 per cent Tory rating in opinion polls was partly attributable to "appearing indifferent to the poor and weak and offending the British sense of fairness."

July 14, 1995: "I hope the Prime Minister will make clear, in his appointments and the style he establishes for the Government, that the Tory party stands for humanity and efficiency and compassion as well as competition." It would be absurd to let Labour claim alone to represent one nation.

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girl who carries on



of tolerance
as UN light
to sweetness

Friday for those
world of their own

[illegible]

Helicopter search for gunman who shot dead two British tourists in Tangier hotel

Girl who escaped killer carries on with holiday

By MARK HUBAND
IN TANGIER
AND RICHARD DUCE

A SCHOOLGIRL described yesterday how she confronted a gunman who shot dead two British tourists at a hotel in Morocco. Charlean Barker, 12, her hand bandaged after Friday night's attack, survived by feigning death when the man opened fire on her in the hotel corridor.

Charlean was woken by gunshots at the Tarik Hotel on the outskirts of Tangier, and found Patricia Sharratt lying bleeding in the doorway of her room.

"He had shot her and I think he was going to shoot her again but then he saw me. I said to him 'Excuse me, can you help with this woman?' He held a gun up and I held my hands up to my face while he shot, and then I fell down and pretended I was dead so he would go away," Charlean, from Bradwell, Norfolk, said.

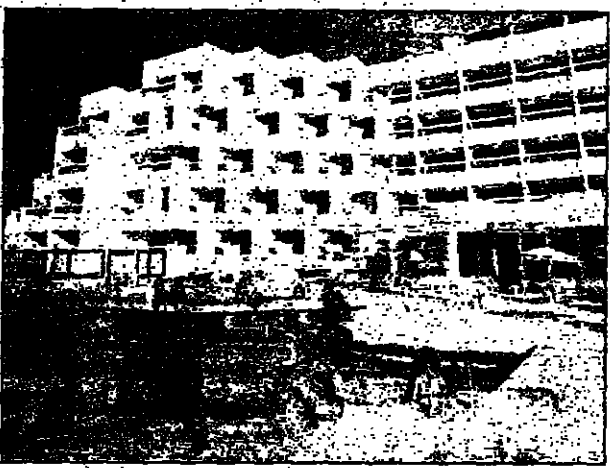
Only minutes earlier the gunman, an off-duty police inspector, had killed Martin Gower, 62, and his wife Margaret, 63, in the hotel bar. The couple, from South Ruislip, London, were on holiday to celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary.

Their son Adrian, 30, said yesterday: "A car accident or plane crash you might half expect but for someone to shoot your parents dead is just unbelievable. The whole family is distraught." A French tourist was also injured.

The gunman, Mustapha Hamouche, 37, was still at large last night. He had shot dead his wife, apparently after discovering that she had been meeting foreign men at the hotel. After deliberately target-



Margaret and Martin Gower were celebrating their wedding anniversary at the Tarik Hotel, below



ing foreigners, he escaped into a forest close to the hotel and police set up roadblocks around the city in an attempt to capture him.

Tracker dogs and helicopters were drafted in for the manhunt but police were considering the possibility that Hamouche may have turned the gun on himself. A police

spokesman in Tangier said he was shocked and surprised by incident. "Hamouche was very good at his job," he said.

One British witness said: "The gunman came into the hotel bar from reception. I noticed him because he was very handsome and he was wearing a long white robe. He walked up to a raised area

where there was a piano and shouted 'Allah Akbar' (God is Great) and then he shot Mr Gower in the chest. Mrs Gower jumped in shock and he shot her. Then he ran into the lounge where we were sitting. He went up to a Frenchman who was there with a Moroccan girl and shot him at close range."

Graham Brake, 47, from Huddersfield, said: "I just heard bangs and thought it was party poppers. The man ran in front of me with the gun and I thought it was some sort of cabaret until I saw the blood. By then he had just flipped. He was going berserk, shooting at anybody."

He described Charlean's ordeal as "mind-numbing" but said: "She was very brave. She obviously did the right thing by pretending she was dead."

It is thought the man then chased Mrs Sharratt up the stairs and shot her in the back before firing at Charlean, who was hit in the hand and suffered only a graze.

Mrs Sharratt, 50, believed to have been travelling alone, had two bullets removed from her back in a Tangier clinic. A hospital spokesman said: "It's a serious injury but she remains stable." Mrs Sharratt is expected to be flown to Britain by air ambulance today.

Charlean was on holiday with her brother Andrew, 17, her mother, Janet, 38, and stepfather, Francis Hall, 45. The family will continue their holiday after tour firms offered to move them to another hotel. Other tourists have chosen to be flown home.

Yesterday the Tarik Hotel, situated several miles outside Tangier, was closed and all the guests had left or been transferred to other hotels.



Charlean Barker: pretended to be dead after the gunman shot her in the hand

Barbara Kirkham, from Rainford, Merseyside, said: "We were looking forward to our holiday but I will be glad to get back. You read about these things happening but you don't think you will be the centre of it. I was a nervous wreck and I dread to think

what a 12-year-old went through." Alan Johnson, 46, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, said: "He was not a serial killer. What happened could have happened in Britain. We were just in the wrong place at the wrong time." The bodies of

Mr and Mrs Gower are expected to be held in Tangier while the police investigation continues. Mr Gower ran his own plumbing business and was a member of the local British Legion. The couple had two children and five grandchildren.

Church produces soap opera guide to marriage

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Roman Catholic Church is marketing "soap opera" videos as part of an effort to reduce the divorce rate and encourage couples to marry. In an attempt to convey the Church's message on the sanctity of marriage, the Catholic Communications Centre has produced a three-part training video featuring fictional couples. Ged Clapson, of the centre, said: "In the television age, the use of soap opera is considered a very effective way of reaching young people."

The videos, called *Marriage - What It Takes*, deal with facing up to in-laws, handling rows, adapting to living as a couple and coping with financial strains. The scenes are based on the experiences of people who have approached the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, which helped to produce the video. It is designed to help counsellors and priests as well as couples.

Eileen McCabe, of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, said: "More young people are realising that a genuine commitment is needed as they enter into a relationship with another person or decide to get married."

Lord Habgood, the former Archbishop of York, has criticised the modern tendency to "worship the great god choice". In last night's Priestland Memorial Lecture on BBC Radio 4, he accused the media of perpetuating a "culture of contempt". The belief that universal truths existed was being replaced by the view that "everything boils down to individual opinion".

Star of tolerance sheds UN light but no sweetness

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SATELLITE designed to celebrate the United Nations Year of Tolerance has strained the patience of astronomers well beyond breaking point.

Claiming that it would threaten the whole of optical astronomy, the International Astronomical Union and the American Astronomical Society have protested to Federico Mayor, the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

The idea for the satellite is that of Nersi Razavi, a Paris businessman, who is also a consultant to Unesco. With the help of a Russian rocket he hopes to launch the "Star of Tolerance" satellite, consisting of two giant balloons with shiny reflective surfaces, linked by a cable a mile long.

One balloon would be 164 ft in diameter, the other 98 ft, and they would rotate around one another while circling the Earth at a height of 750 miles. Reflecting the sunlight towards the ground, they would look like two planets in orbit around one another.

Mr Razavi believes the project would cost \$20 million, which might be raised by a lottery. As well as glowing at dawn and twilight, the balloons would transmit radio signals between the countries

over which they were passing. Astronomers have greeted the idea with horror. Optical astronomy is already burdened with an excessive amount of light from the ground. Adding a satellite designed to reflect light would make things worse.

Dr Robert Milkey, president of the American Astronomical Society, wrote to Dr Mayor that he was all in favour of peace and tolerance but "the proposed manner of communicating these ideas would seriously impair the science of optical astronomy all over the world".

Patrick Crane, of Interferometric Inc., a Virginia company, told *Physics World* that the satellite would appear as bright as the Moon. But Mr Razavi calls the American astronomers "arrogant and hypocritical" and says that the Star of Tolerance would be no brighter than Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. It would be visible only for two hours after sunset and two hours before sunrise, he says. American astronomers fear the Unesco satellite could lead to the use of space as an advertising billboard. The Royal Astronomical Society said the last thing astronomers needed was a new source of light in the sky.

Holiday for those in a world of their own

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

RELUCTANT travellers who would rather sample European delights at home need venture no further than Walsall. A travel agency is offering a "Euro-sceptic" weekend of German beer, French wines, Greek-style pasta smashing and flamenco outfit within the confines of the Boudary Hotel in the town, eight miles northwest of Birmingham.

A hundred people have booked already. John Bridge, manager of the tour company, said: "There are people in this country who want to sample foreign food and drink without meeting foreigners. Some people hardly want to know their neighbours, let alone someone from abroad."

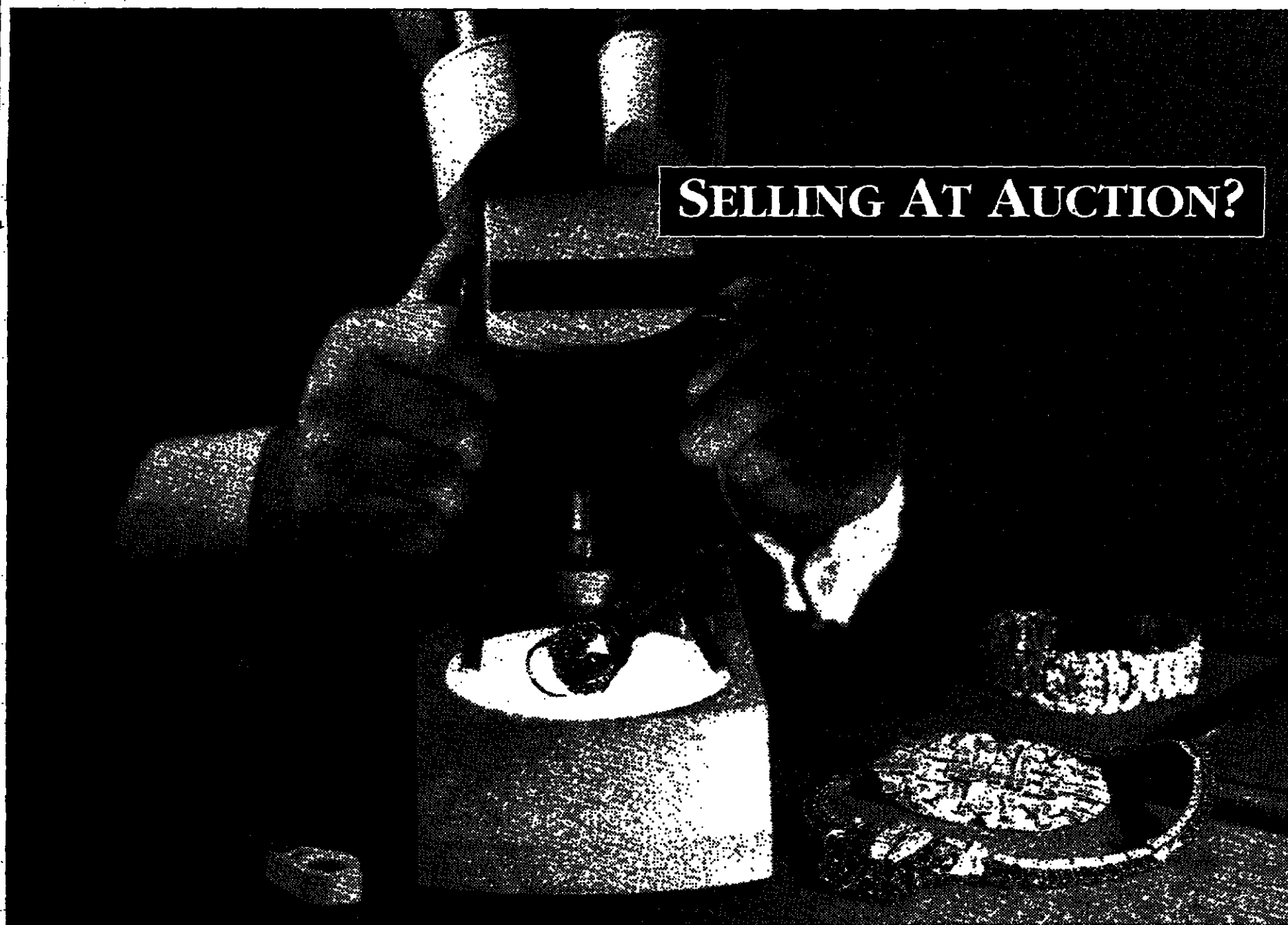
A brochure from Supreme Travel in Essex, sent to more than a million homes around the country last week, promises exotic but bureaucratic-free nights for £70 a head. "Are you a reluctant European? If

so, we have the answer in the cultural capital of Europe - Walsall. You can sample the food, atmosphere and entertainment of Spain, France, Germany and Greece."

Mr Bridge, a Euro-sceptic himself, said that the idea began as a joke but there had been dozens of inquiries every day since the leaflet campaign. "There has been so much in the newspapers about Euro-sceptics that we thought there should be an official tour."

"We picked Walsall because - no offence to the people who live there - it is the unlikeliest culture capital of Europe." But Alan Young, the hotel deputy manager, said: "It's quite a nice place."

The Euro-sceptic MP Sir Teddy Taylor said last night: "Many people who go abroad for their holidays arrive back disappointed. Anything that keeps holidaymakers in Britain cannot be a bad thing."



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INTERNATIONAL
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Childless couples look east to orphanages full of a nation's rejected daughters

China's unwanted baby girls find homes in Britain

By GRAHAM DUFFELL and MARIANNE CURPHEY

THIRTY British couples have successfully adopted a child from China over the past two years, when the Government made adoption from that country legal.

Chinese officials admit to having 100,000 unwanted baby girls — which in theory could answer the needs of every British couple wanting to adopt — but the real figure is reckoned to be many times that number. In its attempt to control its population of 1.2 billion China has a policy of one child per family and, with a premium on boys, the number of abandoned baby girls is incalculable.

In Britain the number of children given up for adoption has fallen from 27,000 in 1968 to 8,000 in 1992. Current procedures require the adoption to be approved by the local authority in which the couple lives and by the Department of Health.

The Overseas Adoption Support and Information Services (Oasis) says the process

is a lottery depending on where couples live. There is no legal obligation on the local authority to help, and no requirement that they provide any research in assessing would-be parents — a home study — which the Health Department demands before agreeing to process an application.

Julia Fleming of Oasis says the principle objection is usually that it is wrong to put a Chinese child with parents of a different race. The difficulty for the couples is that the council rarely states its position but simply acts obstinately.

"A couple in Wales have waited four years for a home study. Others have been asked to pay £6,000 for it as a way of getting rid of them," she said.

"If you live in Beckenham in Kent you cannot get a home study if you are a single mother but if you live in mid-Kent you can. One council demands parents to have been married for three years."

Fenella and Eamonn Courne, from East Sussex, spent £7,500 to adopt a baby girl, Eois, which receives 200 letters a week from couples interested in overseas adoption. Fenella wants the Government to require local authorities to assess couples for adoption and for reasons of acceptance or refusal to be based on uniform guidelines. Oasis feels that adoption is often refused because of ignorance over what is loosely seen as "baby trading".

The *Baby Trade*, broadcast on Saturday on BBC television, claimed that women in Paraguay were paid to have babies for American couples. In China the excess of babies prompted another television documentary, *The Dying Room*, to claim that Chinese orphanages were practising infanticide.

Oasis, Danygraig, Balaclava Road, Glais, Swansea, SA7 9JU. Tel 01792 844329



Fenella and Eamonn Courne with Phoebe. "We don't know what it's like to have your own child but we feel only pure love for her."

'You try not to get too excited in case there are setbacks'

By GRAHAM DUFFELL

AFTER two ectopic pregnancies and unsuccessful attempts at IVF treatment, Eamonn and Fenella Courne decided in 1993 to adopt a child. Fenella, 34, an accountant with Arthur Andersen, and Eamonn, 36, a computer analyst with Barings Bank, knew they stood no chance of adopting a baby in Britain.

Mr Courne said: "There was a lot in the papers about Romania and people buying babies but we wanted to do it legally. There is nothing more vulnerable than a childless couple — you almost wear a sign saying 'rip me off'."

They read about adopting a Chinese baby in a fertility magazine. His wife said: "We

knew it was done legally and they had babies that needed families." In January last year they approached Hammer-smith and Fulham Council and applied for a "home study", the first required step.

She said: "They took ages and did not allocate a social worker to us. We were obviously at the bottom of the list of people to be dealt with." After two months they were referred to Childlink, a Government-approved body that carries out home studies on behalf of the local authority, for a £2,000 fee.

Mr Courne added: "We had three or four sessions with other couples before the social worker saw us about ten times for two hours each and we filled in about 60 sides of A4 questionnaires. We discussed identity, race, culture and how we would bring the child up." Last October Childlink recommended the Courneans for adoption but they were unexpectedly rejected at the council panel hearing on November 2.

Mr Courne said: "We were not allowed to attend and our social worker presented the case. Mrs Courne said: 'The decision had already been reached and they weren't asked anything about our case. They have never approved anyone adopting outside the country. It was a bitter blow.'"

The couple then applied to be assessed for adoption by East Sussex Council, where they had bought a house. East Sussex accepted the original Childlink report and recommendation and in March this year they sent the papers, including employer references, marriage certificate and bank statements, to the Department of Health.

Mr Courne said: "Once it got to them things seemed to move very quickly and it was apparent they were used to dealing with Peking." The documents were sent to Peking at the beginning of May, translated into Mandarin, and on May 30 Mrs Courne was told by telephone from China that a baby had been allocated. They had applied for a baby aged between three and six months but had no choice beyond that.

The next day Mr Courne was in the Barings London office when the baby's medical records and picture arrived by fax. "I passed it around and asked people what they thought of my daughter. I gave Fenella a call at work and five minutes later we met on the corner of Bishopsgate and stared at this outline of a baby's face."

"You try not to get too excited — there might still be setbacks so you are always suppressing your emotions." When the real form with a colour photograph arrived from Peking the Courneans detached it. "I carried it in my wallet one day and Eamonn carried it the next day. It was the first time that it really felt like it was our daughter," Mrs Courne said.

"We would have gone the same day. I was working on a big project at the time but had warned my company that this could come up," she said. The firm agreed to give her maternity leave.

On June 21 they flew to Peking and then to the town of Hefei, in Anhui Province. Mr Courne said: "We were taken to a hotel and there was an empty cot in the corner of the room. It was 1.30pm and we were told our baby would be brought to us at 2.30pm."

His wife said: "It was the most surreal hour in my life."

The couple had brought clothes in three sizes because they did not know when the report had been taken. They had nappies, bottles, teats, baby formula milk and sterilising fluid.

Mr Courne said: "Suddenly we realised that this is what it came down to. Up to this point we had dealt with issues of race, culture and identity and now we had to

She was left outside the orphanage with only a piece of paper with her birthdate written on it.

deal with nappies, bottles and crying. At 2.30 there was a knock on the door and a young girl carrying Phoebe came in with the orphanage director, our guide and the interpreter. Phoebe was dressed in her best clothes. The girl gave Phoebe to Fenella and Fenella was crying, then she handed her to me."

"We had eight officials in the room with us and were asked to fill in official documents. After two hours they asked us if we accepted her and we said yes. They said 'she is now your responsibility'."

After five days of formalities and registering Phoebe at the British Embassy in Peking, they flew home. Phoebe travelled on her Chinese passport in the name of Liu Tong.

Mrs Courne said: "All we know about her background is that she was abandoned at three days. She was left outside the orphanage with a

piece of paper with her birthdate on. It is illegal to abandon a child in China so there was no name."

Mr Xu named her Liu, meaning willow tree, and Tong after the Tongfeng Orphanage. "Liu is hard to pronounce and would end up as loo, so we called her Phoebe Liu," she added.

China has a one child per family policy and families in rural areas want only boys. "The Chinese people we met seemed to take a pragmatic view of the solution," Mrs Courne said. And, what would have been Phoebe's future if they had not adopted her? "I don't suppose it would have been great."

She said: "I don't know what it is like to have your own child but what I feel is pure love. She is Chinese and I want her to grow up proud of being Chinese. She has a Chinese godmother. When she goes to school I want her to go where she won't be the only Chinese child there."

Phoebe was christened last weekend and next week will join the other 30 families who have adopted Chinese children at a party. She is happy and healthy and the Courneans have no regrets. Phoebe has been accepted by family and friends, although Mr Courne ran into unexpected criticism at the tennis club. He said: "One of the men said there were plenty of children in this country who needed help. He clearly hadn't thought about it."

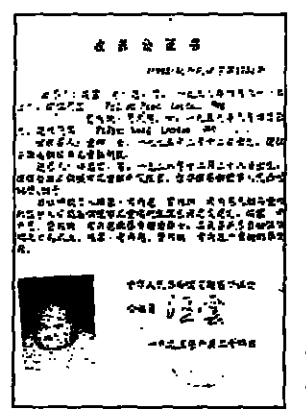
The adoption cost £2,350 for the home study, a donation of £2,000 to the orphanage and £750 in legal fees. Travel costs brought the total to about £7,500. The Courneans want to return to the same orphanage next year to adopt another child.

Mrs Courne said: "I know we are not her perfect parents. Her perfect parents are her natural parents — but that just didn't work."

Notarial Certificate of Adoption (translation)

Adoptive parents: Eamonn Courne, male, born April 26 1957, now residing at Fulham Road, London.
Fenella Courne, female, born September 4, 1959.
Adopted person: Tong Liu, female, born March 12, 1995, now residing at the Children's Welfare Institution of Tongfeng City, Anhui Province.
Chinese Guardian: Xu Zhongfa, male, born December 28, 1938, director of the Children's Welfare Institution of Tongfeng City, now residing at Building 96, the West People Town, Tongfeng City.

This is to certify that Eamonn Courne and Fenella Courne, and Xu Zhongfa have reached the agreement that Eamonn Courne and Fenella Courne adopt Tong Liu as their adopted daughter, and the



adoptive relationship is established on the date when the Notarial Certificate of Adoption takes effect. Eamonn Courne and Fenella Courne are now Tong Liu's adoptive parents.

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Mrs Courne, with officials at a hotel in China, meets Phoebe for the first time.

Education 'refugees' on rise

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

WEALTHY families from Third World countries are sending their children to Britain as refugees so they can get a free education, according to councils facing a rising bill for looking after them.

The children, some as young as five, are brought to the country and then abandoned, often with no documents. The Home Office rarely deports them and it is left to the local authority where they are found to accommodate, clothe and edu-

cate them. The annual cost averages £25,000 a child, which has to be found from a council's budget.

In the past three years more than 1,000 children have arrived and been abandoned. Although many are genuine refugees from war zones, a significant proportion are believed to come from wealthy families who use paid agents to bring children in and infiltrate them into the social security system. They are arriving at an increasing rate, with about ten

a week being taken into care. Most travel by air to London but authorities in Kent and West Sussex also have to deal with children arriving by ferry.

The rising cost of looking after them is eating into social service budgets, with no compensation from central government. The Association of London Government, representing all 32 of the capital's boroughs, is writing today to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, asking for help.

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DIAMONDS

NEWS IN BRIEF

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR



Dr Declan McCartan, former chief examiner for the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment, said there had been a difference of 15 marks between two boards in the total needed to achieve the top grade in A-level mathematics. "We felt that to be fair to the candidates it was necessary to bring the grade boundary mark down."



Shephard: has set up inquiry on standards

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of men in formal attire, including top hats and suits, standing in a line. The image is heavily stylized, with extreme contrast and a grainy texture. The men are arranged in two rows, with some standing and others partially visible in the foreground. The background is dark and indistinct.

The boys at Harrow have been advised not to act like "the stereotypical little rich kid"

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Incidents this term include verbal abuse and several muggings when boys have been punched and had rocket

money stolen. General Sir John Akehurst, chairman of governors, said the warning was meant to ensure there could be no excuse for further attacks. He said: "I cannot promise that all attacks have not been provoked but the magazine advises Harrow boys not to provoke anyone because we are trying to teach them to be good citizens."

Sir John added: "There has always been a local sport of having a go at Harrow boys. The particular thing that gave rise to concern this time was

Sir John added: "Obviously there are differences between the way in which the average kid in Harrow is brought up and the way kids who go to Harrow School are brought up. But we had no problems in my day because pupils rarely went into town."

Sir John said more boys were venturing into town to use the cashpoint. A deal with a bank to provide one nearer the school was in the pipeline. He added: "We thought about trying to change the uniform to make the boys less conspicuous but decided they would always be identifiable whatever they wore."

Nicholas Bomford, Harrow

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, no children were allowed to take the test in their own school and they all had to take a photograph

Now all candidates attend two morning practice tests and the afternoon non-

Mr Fairley-Churchill said there had always been rumours that some schools gave more help to their pupils than others did, but it had never been investigated.

Research at Boston University medical school has confirmed that an excessive intake of vitamin A is linked to various birth defects. So convincing is this evidence that the staid and respected *New England Journal of Medicine* has waived its usual rule and allowed doctors involved in the study to release their findings to the press, rather than wait until after the work has been published in its own



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

At the time the Department of Health also recommended that women should avoid liver or liver pâté, as high levels of vitamin A had been found in the livers of some animals.

Other authorities thought that the advice that pregnant women should avoid liver and liver pâté was more cautious than was necessary and that pregnant women

Dr Rothman's study will be taken as an endorsement of the Chief Medical Officer's warning and his advice that in pregnancy, and now it

But beta carotene, available in vitamin supplements as well as fruit and vegetables has, although it is chemically closely related to vitamin A, no adverse effects.



If you lost your job, how would you pay your mortgage?

You may be unaware of the changes to the rules governing income support. But you ought to know about them, because they may affect you. After October 1st, if you have a mortgage you will receive no assistance with your interest payments in the first two months of illness or unemployment, followed by reduced rates of assistance for the next four months. And if you're taking out a new mortgage or changing an existing mortgage, you'll receive no help for the first nine months if you take out a mortgage with Midland, however,

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Lorry driver freed in Spain 'victim of European injustice'

By A Staff Reporter

A BRITISH lorry driver enjoyed his first weekend of freedom after 19 months in a Spanish jail as a lawyer accused the European Union of failing to provide justice for its citizens.

Stephen Jakobi, of Fair Trials Abroad, said: "Everyone has concentrated on freedom of movement but nobody is concerned about uniform justice. The Council of Ministers should be finding some way to avoid people being held in prison for months and years before coming to trial."

Roy Clarke, 47, of Ewell, Surrey, held on a £50 million drug-smuggling charge, was freed on Friday when a Spanish judge decided there was insufficient evidence to convict him. He has been granted "provisional liberty" until tomorrow, when he is expected to be formally discharged.

Mr Jakobi said anyone

arrested for crimes such as drug-smuggling could not get bail. The different legal systems in the Community meant that even processing papers could take months. "There are at least 3,000 people in prison across Europe who should not be there. Many are awaiting trial on offences of which they are not guilty," he said.

He cited the case of Steven Bryant, who was jailed in Morocco after drugs were found in the load of frozen squid he was bringing to Europe. "He was just a driver picking up a load," Mr Jakobi said. "How would he know if there were drugs in the container? The drivers at risk are the independents, who work rather like minicabs. They don't know where the next load is coming from or what it is. Smugglers don't know them but they can take the chance of putting drugs in

among the load." John Harrower, of Shaw, Manchester, is serving four years in France for smuggling 80 kg of cannabis among a load of beetroot. He is due to appeal against sentence next month. Mr Jakobi said: "This is almost an identical case to Mr Clarke's. There was nothing to show he had any knowledge he was carrying drugs. His tachograph readings did not indicate an extra stop on the route."

Mr Clarke was arrested in February last year when Spanish police seized 2.4 tonnes of cannabis resin concealed in concrete piles in his truck en route to Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. He protested his innocence from the outset and British customs officials testified at his trial, saying many lorry drivers were unwitting victims of international drugs gangs.



The Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré with two models in clothes from his uncomplicated Milan collection

Acclaim for Ferré's elegant simplicity

FROM IAIN R. WEBB
IN MILAN

GIANFRANCO FERRÉ has given his latest spring and summer collection, in Milan, a less-is-more theme.

Ferré dressed the supermodels in ultra-simple shapes and for the most part in understated black and white; his striped long skirts worn with clingy black jersey tops appeared this weekend as the finale of Milan Fashion Week.

Ferré is known for his over-indulgence and elaborate cuts, and these refreshingly uncomplicated designs in body-hugging fabrics were acclaimed by the international press and buyers. Especially popular were his navy and white knitted tunics worn with narrow trousers or an ankle-length straight skirt.

Ferré's evening-wear was equally straightforward; he concentrated on achieving an elegant silhouette. This collection is one of his best.

Law Society

Pay for worst-off solicitors falls to £10,000 a year

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of solicitors are earning less than £10,000 a year and are at risk of going out of business, according to research for the Law Society.

A survey of 500 firms has found that although bigger practices have survived the recession comparatively well, those run by a single solicitor are vulnerable, with earnings at an all-time low. John Jenkins, policy adviser of the society's research unit, told solicitors at their annual conference in Birmingham at the weekend that the survey of solicitors' profits, before tax but after meeting overheads such as staff, found that about 800 of the 3,400 sole-practitioner firms in England and Wales were earning less than £10,000 a year.

Looking at the next band of firms, the 3,600 that have from

two to four partners, a quarter were earning less than £24,000 a year, Mr Jenkins said. Although the profession as a whole had enjoyed a steady growth in income over the past few years, that growth appeared to have reached a plateau. "So we could be at a turning point: on the brink of the collapse which some have talked about."

But the survey, to be published in the society's next annual statistical report, also found a striking contrast between small firms and big ones.

"For the top 25 per cent, life is not too bad. Solicitors are certainly doing well at this stage of an economy which is apparently coming out of recession compared with other industries," Mr Jenkins said.

The average gross fee income, before outgoings for staff and overheads, was on average £123,000 for a sole practitioner for 1993-94; £138,000 for a partner in a firm of two to four partners; £175,000 for a partner in a five to ten-partner firm; and £485,000 for partners in firms of 26 or more partners.

Mr Jenkins urged solicitors to look to new areas of work, in particular commercial work with local businesses. Commercial work still accounted for 30 per cent of the profession's fee income and conveyancing was still the second biggest area at 12 per cent, although this was sharply down from 22 per cent in 1989.

Hourly rates charged by firms are not at the high level of £300 quoted in some surveys, Carole Willis, controller of the society's research unit, told the conference. These figures related to large commercial firms and bore no relation to most solicitors. A new survey had found that the average hourly fee across Britain was £101.

Mr Goldsmith made his

promise as he launched a Bar Council *pro bono publico* scheme at the weekend to co-ordinate the provision of free services by barristers. He told the Law Society conference that the Bar recognised there was "an unmet need" for legal advice that could not be handled under legal aid. He was sure many others would follow his example.

The new scheme would co-ordinate all free services and offer awards to barristers to provide such services.

Woollf demands cash for reforms

By FRANCES GIBB

LORD WOOLF, the law lord, challenged the Government publicly to back his reforms of civil justice by promising to put money into them. He also gave warning that he expected the Government to treat the 124-proposal report as a package and not to accept some proposals while ignoring others.

Lord Woolf, who outlined the biggest overhaul of civil justice earlier this year, said he believed that officials were working on the proposals. "But I would like to see solid evidence that it is happening, rather than in the bowels of the Court Service Agency and the Lord Chancellor's Department."

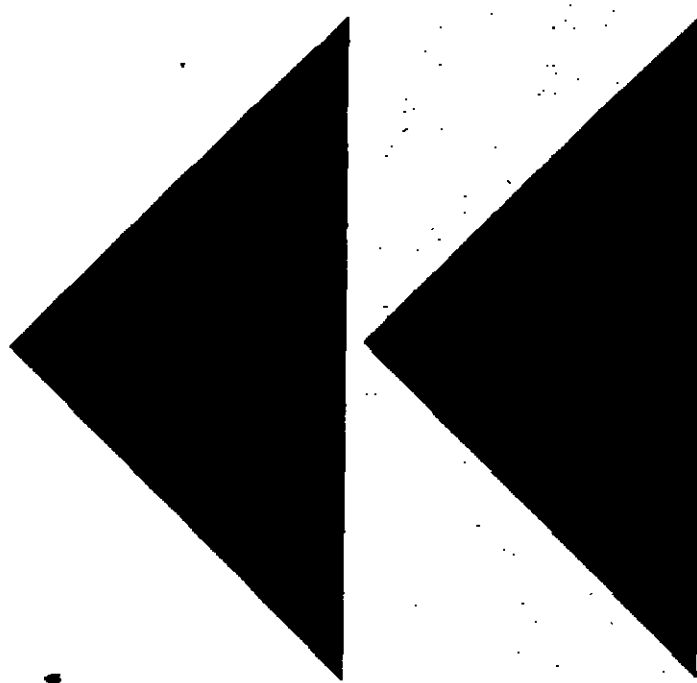
Lord Woolf's comments at the Law Society conference echoed concern in the legal profession that his proposals could founder through lack of funds. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has yet to respond formally to them. They envisage judges becoming trial managers who would dictate the pace of

cases, and a fast-track system for disputes involving less than £10,000, with lawyers' fees fixed in advance.

Last week John Taylor, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, was jeered by barristers when he failed to promise money to put computers into all courts, another of the proposals.

Lord Woolf said on Saturday that there was no prospect of the Government providing "a substantial injection of resources" — both main political parties had made that clear at last week's Bar conference. "But this does not mean the proposals are doomed. They can be achieved by the redeployment of resources and some pump-priming." Other funds could be found through removing "substantial inefficiencies in the system at present".

He said the proposals were intended as "an integrated and co-ordinated whole... I would be concerned if in due course the majority of them were not implemented."



Rewind.

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Bass BRITAIN

Millions of civil servants set to strike amid doubts over Prime Minister's future

Juppé puts blame for franc's fall on 'London gnomes'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PLAGUED by financial uncertainty, a looming strike and doubts about his political future, Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, has taken the time-honoured step of blaming the British.

During a meeting of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) in Avignon at the weekend, M Juppé denounced what he called "the London gnomes" for currency speculation that sent the franc plummeting on foreign exchange markets last Friday.

News of a criminal inquiry into corruption allegations against the Prime Minister and mounting concern over his ability to cut spending and reduce the state deficit pro-

duced a crisis in the French financial markets on Friday amid rumours in London and Paris that M Juppé was on the point of resigning.

The rumours were quickly scotched by the Prime Minister's office, but not before the Bank of France was forced to step in to protect the franc against international currency speculators. The franc has lost more than five centimes against the German mark since Monday.

M Juppé defended his drive for deficit reduction and singled out British currency speculators for special criticism. "I do not want to cut the deficit in order to please the market, those people I'll call ... the

London gnomes. I do it because the national interest is at stake," he told Gaullist members of parliament on Saturday.

The newspaper, *La Libération*, joined in the anti-British chorus, dubbing the archetypal London speculator "John O'Money", noting that "London is where these rumours originate". It quoted one dealer as saying: "A good liquid lunch is enough to set them discussing which politician will resign next."

The Prime Minister is under investigation over his lease of a flat belonging to the city of Paris, following allegations that he used his influence while deputy mayor to obtain



Alain Juppé acknowledges the applause of Gaullist supporters and Philippe Séguin, the National Assembly leader, left, in Avignon

the elegant apartment in the Saint Germain de Près district at a reduced rent.

M Juppé has denounced the preliminary inquiry by the public prosecutor as a "Socialist plot", but on Friday he

announced that he and his family would soon move out of their flat on the Rue Jacob to "turn the page" on the affair.

The prospect of tomorrow's one-day strike by France's five million civil service workers

has exacerbated financial jitters. Schools, museums, transport, courts and hospitals will be affected, as workers take to the streets to protest against M Juppé's planned wage freeze. Putting a brave face on his

tribulations and dismal opinion polls, the Prime Minister told supporters that he retained the full confidence of President Chirac.

However, doubts about his economic policies persist even

within Gaullist ranks. Philippe Séguin, the Speaker of the National Assembly who has been tipped as a possible replacement, is known to be critical of his efforts to raise taxes and reduce the deficit.

Santer heads for nuclear storm

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE anti-nuclear anger of Europe's northern states is threatening to give Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, a rough ride this week as he seeks to defuse pressure for action against France while avoiding fresh criticism that he is a weak leader.

Mr Santer, 58, who succeeded Jacques Delors last January, will head a Commission session in Strasbourg on Wednesday which should decide whether to get tough with President Chirac for neglecting to involve the European Union in his decision to start nuclear tests.

France has angered the Commission with its cavalier treatment of an EU inspection team in Polynesia and by its refusal to hand over data. However, while nine EU states have deplored the French tests, there remain doubts over the Commission's authority to invoke long-dormant articles of the 1957 Atomic Energy Treaty, or its power to enforce them.

Sections of the Commission and many left-wing MEPs want proceedings against France for flouting clauses which require consultation and, in some cases, consent from Brussels for "particularly dangerous experiments".

Britain, which won Mr Santer's appointment last year after rejecting Jean-Luc Dehaene, the majority choice, is no enthusiast for Brussels meddling in national defence. Germany, despite its anger over the tests, wants no action that would further alienate France from the federal drive.

Mr Santer is reluctant to entangle the Commission in the sovereign policy of a senior member state. It is not for the Commission, he says, "to give the green or the red light to a nuclear test".

Disappointment with Mr Santer among some sections of the Commission can be measured in a joke. The new single currency has finally been named, it goes. The unit will be called the Delors and it will be worth 100 Santer.

Algerians admit to French bombings

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most violent of the fundamentalist Algerian factions, has claimed responsibility for the wave of terrorist attacks in France over the past three months in a statement sent to an international news agency in Cairo.

In the letter, the GIA vowed to continue its bombing campaign, which has killed seven people and injured more than 150, and said it would "wage holy war into the very heart of France" in retaliation for French support of the Algerian Government.

The statement, which has yet to be authenticated but appeared to be genuine according to Algerian sources, claimed that the GIA had written earlier to President Chirac, calling on him to convert to Islam within three weeks, "after reconsidering his position and consulting his conscience". It added that "the perfidious Chirac had refused". M Chirac is scheduled to meet President Zeroual of Algeria during a visit to the United Nations in New York later this month.

A homemade bomb exploded on a railway line near Paris yesterday, but investigators played down the attack, which caused slight damage to the track, and would not link it to the recent series of bombings.

Residents of the western suburb of Marly-le-Roi said the powerful pre-dawn blast was heard over a large area. Nobody was hurt.



Zeroual: due to meet President Chirac

Migrants heading for Britain dumped in sea

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S "post-Fascists" again called for tougher immigration controls yesterday after a group of Indian labourers who thought they were going to England were tossed into the Mediterranean near Capri, where they managed to get ashore.

The group of 20 from Bombay swam for hours after being thrown overboard in the Gulf of Naples by an Arab smuggler who took them on board in Tunisia, police said.

Bedraggled and dripping, they were rounded up by police after landing at the fashionable Marina Piccola beach and wandering into the island's main square. They have been given two weeks to leave Italy.

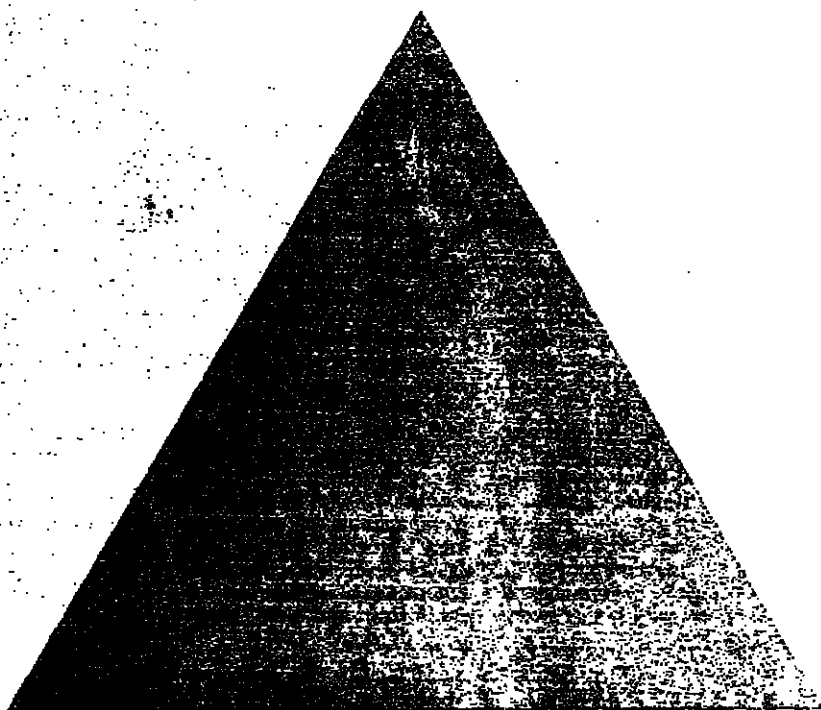
The incident captured the public imagination in a continuing debate about slack immigration controls that has led the Government of Lamberto Dini, the Prime

Minister, to send troops to the southern region of Apulia to patrol the coastline.

Il Messaggero newspaper claimed the Indians asked where they could find the bus to London. "They were disappointed that the rocks in front of their eyes were black instead of the white cliffs of Dover." They said they had travelled to Tunis from Bombay by air.

Yesterday supporters of the conservative Forza Italia party held a rally in Milan, urging the Government to adopt tougher legislation to prevent soaring crime there among east European and other illegal immigrants.

The "post-Fascist" National Alliance asked members to join the demonstration, condemned by the Milan police officers' trade union because they said it risked degenerating into "xenophobia if not racism".



Unwind.



Bass

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING PREMIUM HAND PULLED ALE SINCE 1777.

CYCLING



22

Boardman wastes no time on road to recovery

RUGBY LEAGUE



23

England's finishing inspires starting triumph

FOOTBALL



26

Italians take on a team hardened by battle

SCHOOLS SPORT

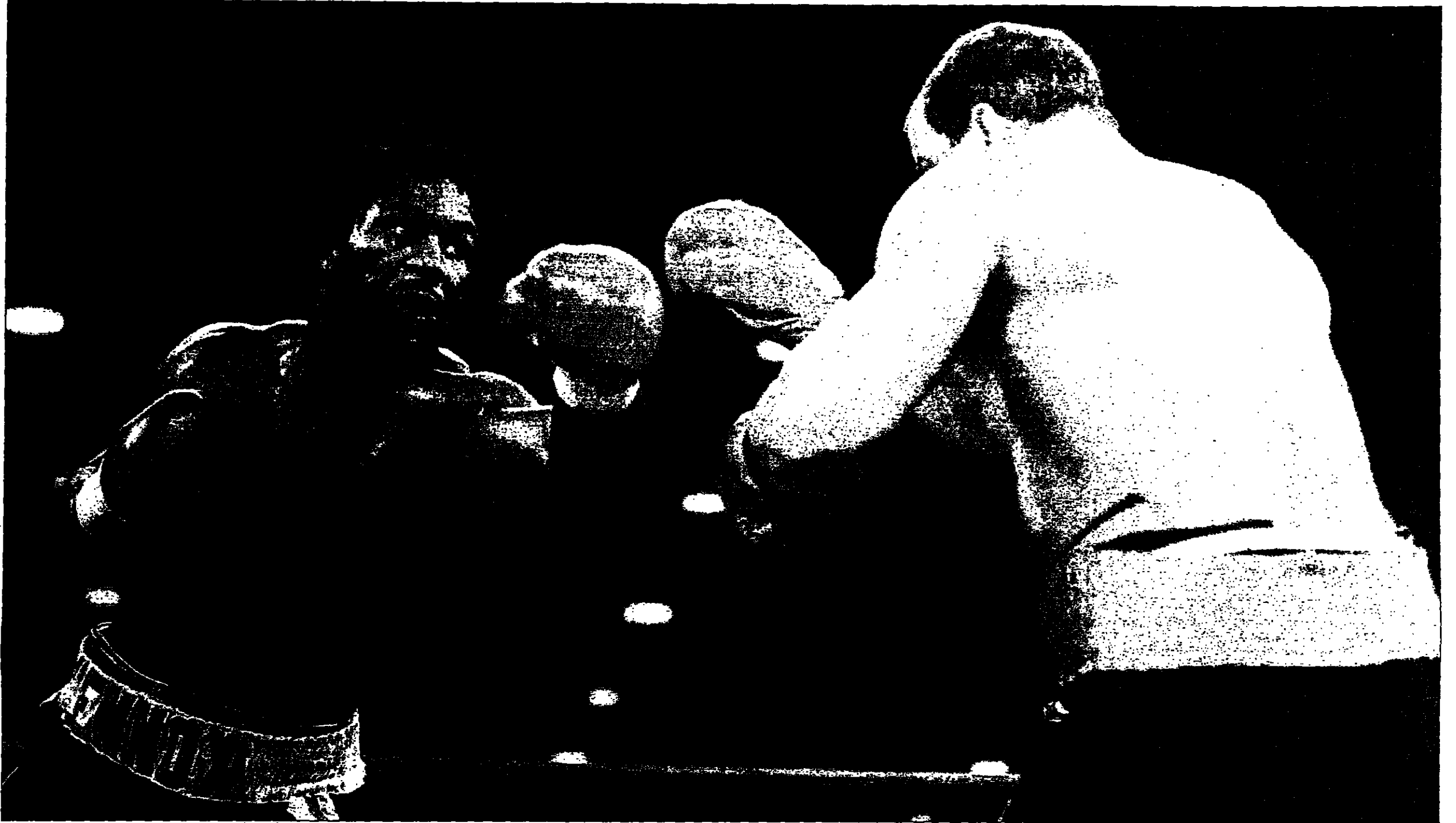


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Gordano's excellence centres on hockey coach

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 9 1995



Lewis, bursting with confidence, goes on the attack against a struggling Morrison during his impressive six-round victory in their contest in Atlantic City. Photograph: Simon Bruty/Allsport

Briton trounces Morrison to line up Bowe or Bruno

Lewis dispels the doubts

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS is within sight of his goal to become the best heavyweight boxer in the world. After his win in the sixth round over Tommy Morrison here on Saturday, he has been told that he will be meeting the winner of the bout between Riddick Bowe, universally acclaimed as the top heavyweight, and Evander Holyfield on November 4.

The bout, which will not be for any championship but simply the acclaim, will take place in March or April, depending on whether Lewis is successful in getting the World Boxing Council (WBC) to honour the ruling of its convention in Seville last year and order Frank Bruno to defend against him.

After seeing Lewis's destructive powers in the best performance of his career against Morrison, an opponent out of Lewis's own choosing and one that most heavyweight contenders prefer to avoid, Bruno is hardly likely to go happily into the ring with the man who, two years ago, clubbed him into submission in seven rounds.

Lewis is the legitimate challenger after his win over Lionel Butler in May in an eliminator ordered by the WBC, but, as Bruno's promoter, Don King, wants to keep the WBC championship in his possession to give Mike Tyson first challenge, the Lewis camp expects King to make a case to the WBC to keep Lewis off until Tyson lifts the title.

Lewis's backer, Panos Eliades, will ask the WBC to start the negotiation procedure to stage the bout between Lewis and Bruno. If the WBC

does not comply with Eliades's request, the matter will go to court.

Dan Duva, the head of Main Events, Lewis's American promoters, said: "We hope Bruno is the champion he professes to be and defends against Lewis. If he doesn't, he's going to have a lot harder fight out of the ring than he's had in it."

Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, was so delighted with Lewis's performance that he said neither Bowe nor Holyfield would last more than eight rounds against him. Certainly, Lewis looked a

more rounded boxer than before and appeared to put the traumatic second-round defeat by Oliver McCall a year ago firmly behind him. He dispelled fears about his nervousness by taking Morrison's best punches and coming straight back to wipe out the deficit. As Lewis said: "I was really confident. I have got a new arsenal of punches. The best of Lennox Lewis is yet to come. Put the right opponent in front of me and different things will come out."

Particularly impressive was his ability to make openings

for himself with short punches and unleash combinations at close quarters. The best punch of the night was a left hook. As Lewis has stopped most of his opponents with the long right, Morrison was taken by surprise. Indeed, each of the contest's four knockdowns, in the second round, fifth round and two in the sixth, came from short punches, two of which were left hooks.

In the second, as Morrison drove Lewis up against the ropes, he slipped to one side and clipped Morrison with a left that immediately dropped him. Morrison got up quickly,

but the blow had opened a cut by his right eye.

Morrison came back strongly in the next two rounds and looked determined to beat Lewis to the jab. He was successful when landing some good lefts and a couple of good right hands, but those blows did not deter Lewis.

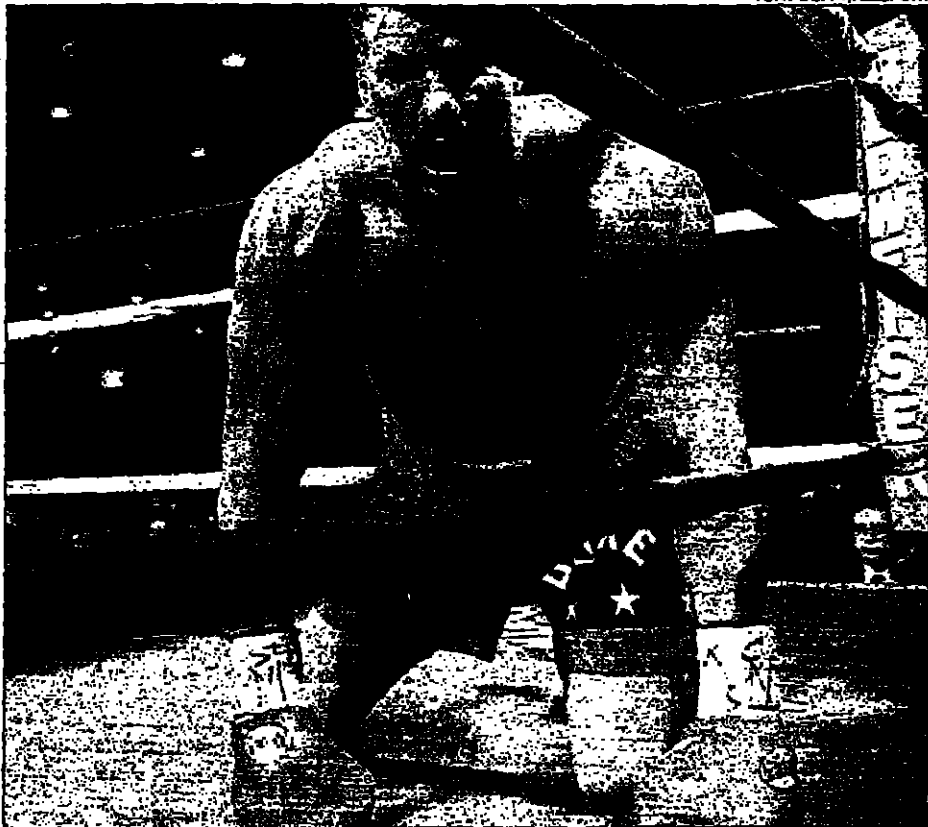
Instead, Lewis's left hook again dominated the fifth round and, as Morrison came in, head down, he was floored with a beautiful uppercut, quite an achievement for a tall man like Lewis. Again Morrison was up quickly, but now his right eye was almost completely closed.

Lewis, noticing that Morrison had little depth of vision, came in close and dropped him with a short jab. Once again, Morrison rose and tried to hold, but Lewis broke free and threw a left hook moving away. Morrison fell and this time the referee, Mills Lane, decided to step in. Morrison, game though he was, was not able to defend himself.

Steward was not surprised that Lewis won the bout with his left hand. "Lewis showed his new left hook," he said. "He is a very gifted athlete and next year you're going to see a much better fighter."

Perhaps the sharpest observation came from Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sport. "It was Lewis's best fight since Gary Mason. This was his first professional fight. Whether it's to do with Steward or Lennox, it was his first professional fight."

Abraham was right. This performance should go a long way to winning over those critics who have always labelled the former Olympic champion as little more than an amateur.



Morrison, on his knees for the fourth time, tries in vain to gather his senses



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

CHANEL

Reality falls short of an attractive theory

A fortnight or so ago, BSkyB's new plan to improve its coverage of the FA Cup Premiership appeared in newspapers. The satellite network would harness the very latest in digital technology to show every Premiership game on a Saturday on a pay-per-view basis.

The news must have been met with laughter at ITV Sport, where some of the very oldest television technology is currently harnessed to do something similar for the Easleigh Insurance League. It is called regional broadcasting, a technology as old as TV itself, which allows each regional company to broadcast its own programmes as well as programmes carried by the whole ITV network.

Theoretically, it means that, on a Sunday afternoon, Yorkshire Television could be

showing Barnsley against Huddersfield, while London Weekend broadcasts Millwall versus Charlton. Central could show Birmingham's derby with Wolverhampton Wanderers and Granada Tranmere Rovers against Oldham Athletic. Who needs digital television, ITV executives argue, when you have regional variety like this?

Yet, as ever, there is a big difference between theory and practice. Under ITV's existing contract with the Football League, it can shortlist up to four games from the first division to be played and shown live on a Sunday afternoon. In practice, however, that diversity is rarely achieved, thanks to a curious mixture of simple economics (each live game is over and above ITV's £5.75 million-a-year contract with the Football



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

League) and sheer indifference by television executives, who remain unconvinced about the mass appeal of live football from the lower divisions.

Yesterday, for instance, Birmingham City versus Southend United was the only game in town and while it was good to hear Brian Moore in splendid form and see Steve Claridge, the Birmingham forward who scored both his team's goals, in even better form, the crucial thing was that, of the "Big Five" ITV companies, neither Yorkshire

or Granada covered the game. Similarly, many of the smaller ITV companies regularly avoid the Sunday game, preferring to stick to a shorter magazine format showing edited highlights of Saturday's games.

Midweek football has a similarly mixed bag. While ITV's live coverage of the European Cup Champions' League is networked and has pulled in peak television audiences of nine million (remarkable, given Blackburn Rovers' appalling European form), the

early rounds of the Coca-Cola Cup, the League's other principal property, are not. Regional companies have to find room for late-night highlights when they can.

Nevertheless, some of the extraordinary results of Wednesday night will have served only to convince the owners of the first division clubs that this half-hearted, regional approach is selling their game short. They have seen the beneficial effect that more live coverage has had on the Premiership and they want their division to have similar opportunities. They also, of course, want more money.

ITV's existing contract with the Football League runs out at the end of this season. Renewing it should be straightforward. The League must notify ITV of any counter-offer by November 1.

ITV then has a month to match it. Simple.

The problem is that the Football Association has intervened, hoping that a sufficiently large amount of money will convince the first division club owners that bringing the Easleigh Insurance League and the Coca-Cola Cup under the same commercial umbrella as the Premiership and the FA Cup will be to their advantage.

Assuming the second and third division owners can be brought on-side (the phrase "take it or leave it" springs to mind), the League's properties will be combined with the Football Association's to be divided up between BSkyB, ITV and the BBC in a manner as yet unknown but no doubt best summarised as "to each according to their means". These days, that's football.

Forsbrand withstands onslaught by Langer

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN BERLIN

ANDERS FORSBRAND, not by nature a Swede of the cool and unflappable school, held his nerve to withstand a multinational birdie barrage and win the Mercedes German Masters with a total of 264, 24 under par, at the Motzener See Golf and Country Club yesterday.

Five shots ahead of Langer after three rounds, Forsbrand, whose last win was in Morocco 20 months ago, was far from unassailable, especially on another Indian summer of a day, on a course where the record of 61 was set on Friday. When he played the front nine in an unremarkable level-par 37, to find his lead reduced to one, memories flickered of past Forsbrand frailties.

After all, this was a player who had walked off the course at the French Open last year rather than return a score of 100-plus. This was the man

ahead of Claydon and five ahead of Johansson and Jesper Parnevik. "If you beat Bernhard in Germany, you usually win," Forsbrand had said on Saturday but his initial problems were not with the German but with Claydon and Johansson, who both roared out in 32, five under par, to reach 20 under. Johansson had two eagle threes in that burst, at the 2nd and the 8th, where he tapped in a putt of no more than 18 inches.

Claydon, the course record holder, had played sloppily in a third round of 74, but as the birdies flowed again, he caught Forsbrand at 21 under with a three at the par-four 10th. However, Claydon bogeyed the 11th, where he was bunkered, and even though he came back with a birdie two at the 12th — where Johansson's chances sank with a tee-shot into the water and a double bogey — he could do no better than play the remaining six holes in one over par.

That left Langer, for whom no cause is ever lost. Three behind Forsbrand at the turn, he came home in 31, with four birdies in the last six holes, and found that it was still was not enough. He chipped in at the 11th for a birdie three — the roar suggested at least a hole-in-one — but Forsbrand, wielding a putter designed by a former furniture maker, responded with birdies at the 12th and 13th. Langer three-putted the 15th, and when the big Swede holed from four feet for a birdie two at the 17th, it was all over. Even a Langer birdie at the last was a nervous gesture of defiance, nothing more.

The week's birdie blitz did not quite pass Sam Torrance by — he had 20 — and the Scot did enough to move back to the top of the Volvo Order of Merit, with Colin Montgomerie and Langer in his slipstream. Torrance has £260,481. Montgomerie totals £266,651 and Langer, who won £72,210 yesterday, has £570,174.

All will be decided at the Volvo Masters in three weeks at Valderrama, and Torrance, the only one of the three never to have won the Vardon Trophy, presented to Europe's No 1 every year, was remarkably sanguine about the prospect. "The pressure's on them," he said. "They've got to catch me."

who was going to be the first Swede to make the Ryder Cup team — Joakim Haeggman and Per-Ulrik Johansson beat him to it — and the first to win a major championship — still an open question. Now 34, a veteran of 14 years on tour, he has shown his talent but also revealed himself as a person prone to self-doubt and even self-destruction.

"His mind's great," Andrew Ramsey, Forsbrand's young manager, insisted yesterday, and so it proved. Chased by Johansson, the poly-poly Englishman Russell Claydon and the redoubtable Langer, Forsbrand stood up to it all, coming home in 32, three under par, to finish two strokes ahead of Langer, four



Boardman leads the field up Overton Hill during the Merseyside Wheelers' invitation time-trial yesterday

Boardman makes winning return

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN made an important phone call last night to his Gan team director, Roger Legay. "I'm OK. Will see you later in the week," was the brief message.

Legay had back in his fold Boardman, the Olympic champion, who a few hours earlier had given cycling's most famous limb — his left leg — a punishing fitness test in his first race since breaking it in two places when he crashed on the opening day of the Tour de France 14 weeks ago.

Boardman had entered the Merseyside Wheelers' 28-mile time-trial weeks before he was certain whether he would be sufficiently recovered to compete. The event, two circuits of a sylvan

course through the Delamere Forest, Cheshire, is one that he had made his own. In nine years he had scored six victories.

Yesterday he took the total to seven and, almost as a "thank you" to hundreds of his fans, Boardman set an event and lap record.

His winning time of 1hr 04min 55sec improved by 1min 25sec the time set by Stuart Dargatzis. The crowd's sympathies were with his runner-up — a position he has occupied on four occasions.

The Willenhall rider shrugged off defeat. "It's taken an Olympic and ex-world champion to beat me so really I'm rather pleased," he said. Boardman said

that he felt lethargic before starting and reckoned that he rode at 90 per cent of his potential. "There was no pain or twinges from the ankle," he said. "Everything was fine but I didn't take any chances on the switchback course." As a precaution he was using heavier tyres than usual.

He had one bad moment: on a 40mph descent, a photographer was positioned in the middle of the road on a blind left-hand bend. Boardman's popularity is easy to understand. Always a club cyclist at heart, he appreciates the difficulties amateur organisations have in financing a major invitation event. Yesterday he handed back his winner's £250 prize money. "Put it into next year's event," he said. "I want to see it continue."

Latvia brush aside English challenge

THE worst fears of Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, were confirmed in the Sports Palace here in Riga last night as his team opened their programme in the semi-final round of the European championships with a disappointing 94-67 defeat by Latvia (Nicholas Harting writes).

Without Steve Bucknall and Spencer Dunkley, who were both injured, and the unavailable John Amachi, Nemeth had agonised over whether England had the height and flair to match their hosts. England's passing was competent enough, but without Bucknall to distribute the ball in unexpected directions, it was all too predictable.

Karl Brown did his utmost in the forbidding circumstances to improve England's plight with a determined per-

formance from the back court — a display that made him his side's top scorer — but Latvia's composure was never disturbed.

The signs were ominous from the start for England. Their opponents had collected their first nine points before Brown opened the visitors' account with a free throw and it took England well into the fourth minute before Roger Huggins shot their first field basket.

With England struggling, Latvia were able to gorge themselves in the later stages, much to the delight of the 4,000 crowd. It can only get better for England against Estonia at Leicester on Wednesday when Bucknall may return. "Even if he's half-dead, we can do with him," Nemeth said.

Longo recovers to take second gold

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JEANNE LONGO, of France, won her second gold medal, of three days with a victory in the women's individual road race in the World Cycling Championships in Bogota, Colombia, on Saturday.

Longo, 37, won comfortably despite colliding with other cyclists on the second of five laps of the 11-mile circuit around Duitama, northeast of the Colombian capital. She also won the gold in the 26km race.

Catherine Marsal, also of France, started off slowly but caught up to Longo in the fourth lap and finished 38sec behind her to win the silver. Edita Pučinskaitė, of Lithuania, won the bronze medal.

After falling in the collision, Longo stopped at the end of the second lap, where medical staff examined her leg and mechanics fixed her bike. "I felt an intense pain and I was afraid I wouldn't be able to finish, but gradually I recuperated," she said.

Danny Nelissen, of Holland, overcame a mountainous circuit to win the men's



Longo: finished first despite crash

amateur road race. Matthew Stephens, of Britain, was eighth. Nelissen, a professional rider until last year when he lost his contract with the TVM team, outsmarted riders who are far more experienced in mountainous terrain and altitude to win the 177km race in 4hr

52min 39sec. Daniele Sgnaolin, of Italy, was second, finishing 18sec behind the winner, while Pedro Rodriguez, of Ecuador, finished third after holding off a challenge from Victor Becerra, of Colombia, in a sprint finish. It was the first time Ecuador has won a medal at the world championships.

The race was held on a 17.7km circuit around the provincial town of Duitama. The route, at an altitude of 2,800 metres, consisted of a long climb followed by a twisting descent, heavily favouring riders from the host nation.

Nelissen, 24, broke away from the other riders during a steep descent on the penultimate lap of the ten-lap race and never looked like being caught after that. Stephens led for six laps before a puncture put him out of contention. The Briton finishing 4min 26sec behind Nelissen. His achievement earned Britain five places in the road race at the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year. The first 34 nations represented in the finishing order were given places.

Results, page 27

Boetsch cuts short Courier's rally

ARNAUD BOETSCH became the first Frenchman to win a leading tennis tournament for two years when he beat Jim Courier, the top seed, 6-4, 6-7, 6-0 in the final of the Toulouse Open yesterday. Courier won the Swiss Open last week and appeared to be ready to fight back after losing the first set. After the second set tie-break, however, Boetsch swept to victory, reclaiming the title he won in 1993. "I tired a little and it was a bit difficult in the second set," Boetsch said. "I had some highs and lows during the tournament but I held up."

Courier battled back from 3-1 down in the second set. He had a chance to level the score when he had a set point at 5-4 but Boetsch saved it with a reflex volley with both players at the net. In the tie-break, Courier came back from 3-1 behind to win 7-5, only for Boetsch swiftly to take command again in the third set, finishing the match in style with a delicate cross-court winner.

Criville celebrates

MOTORCYCLING: Alex Criville, of Spain, won the European Grand Prix, the final 500cc race of the season, in Barcelona yesterday, but the victory could lift him no higher than fourth in the overall world championship standings. Michael Doohan, of Australia, who was fourth, had already secured the world title.

Criville manoeuvred his Honda through the 73.27 miles and 25 laps of the Montmeló circuit in 45min 16.93sec, holding off late challenges from Shinichi Itoh, of Japan, and Loris Capirossi, of Italy, also riding Hondas, to win by less than a second. Neil Hodgson, of Britain, was ninth on a Yamaha and John Haydon, another Britain, riding a Harris Yamaha, was tenth.

Majoli off the mark

TENNIS: Iva Majoli, right, of Croatia, beat Mary Pierce, of France, to win the European Indoor tournament in Zurich yesterday — the first title of her professional career. Majoli, the No 7 seed, overcame the second seed 6-4, 6-4 in a see-saw 60-minute encounter. The victory will probably take Majoli 18 into the world's top ten for the first time. She is ranked 13th at present.



Thomson's final repeat

BOWLS: Andy Thomson, the world indoor singles champion, and Richard Corsie, the player he beat in the final in March, qualified to meet in the final of the Flogas Causeway Coast Irish Masters at Ballymaguigan yesterday. Thomson beat John Price, of Swansea, 21-11, in the quarter-finals, then went on to defeat Brendan Thompson, of Co. Antrim, by the same score in the semi-finals. Corsie had trouble with Price's Swansea colleague, Steve Rees, before winning, 21-19, then beat Jeremy Henry 21-14.

Haining regains title

ROWING: Peter Haining, the triple world lightweight sculling champion, regained his title in the Head of the River race over the Thames on Saturday. After his entry with the heavyweight, James Cracknell, had been frowned on by British selectors, Haining's late pairing with a fellow Scot, Rorie Henderson, paid off and they headed the 165-crew entry. Guin Batten, already qualified as the British Olympic single, and sister Miriam, stroke of the British eight, finished fourteenth overall and took the women's section.

Defiant Allen beats heat

TRIATHLON: Mark Allen, right, of the United States, resisted a challenge from Thomas Hildreth, of Germany, as well as stifling heat to secure his sixth Hawaiian Ironman world championship. In the women's race, Paula Newby-Fraser, of Zimbabwe, collapsed after being overhauled 400 metres from the finish by Karen Smyers, of the United States. Newby-Fraser finished fourth.



Cardiff shoot down Jets

ICE HOCKEY: Durham Wasps, Cardiff Devils and Nottingham Panthers confirmed their title credentials with impressive premier division wins on Saturday (Norman de Mesquita writes). Cardiff looked particularly sharp in their 10-2 victory over Slough Jets. In the first division, Manchester Storm proved that they are quickly finding their feet with an 18-1 demolition of Billingham Bombers and Bracknell Bees crushed Solihull Barons 14-2.

Olympic consolation

GYMNASTICS: Although Britain's gymnasts did not qualify to send teams to the Olympics next year, their improved voluntary exercises at the World Cup in Sabae, Japan, earned them two men's and two women's places in Atlanta. Britain's falls in the compulsory bars routines were compensated by steady work in the voluntary beam routines, with Karin Symko scoring 9.5 and Annika Reeder, Michaela Knox, Zita Lusack and Gemma Cuff all topping 9.4.

Hill says impatience may cost him title

DAMON HILL admitted last night that his impatience had contributed to his probable loss of the Formula One drivers' world championship to Michael Schumacher (Oliver Holt writes). The world champion should put the title out of Hill's reach in the Pacific grand prix at Aida, in Japan, on Sunday, October 22, and the Englishman has already begun learning from his mistakes.

Hill, who trails the German by 27 points with three races to go, apportioned some of the blame for his recent mishaps to uncertainty surrounding the rules on overtaking. Schumacher's attempts to block him during the European grand prix ten days ago, and the way Jean Alesi chopped across him later in the race, would have attracted

sanction at other events but went unpunished at the Nürburgring.

Hill has spoken to Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) seeking clarification of what constitutes acceptable tactics. "I can mix it on that level and dish it out if that is what it takes," Hill said. "But I do not want to break the rules. FIA has got to decide if it is going to take action or not."

"I also accept responsibility for a number of driving errors this season. I think in hindsight, I could have exercised more patience at Silverstone, Monza and at the Nürburgring. The mechanical failures we had put pressure on me but it is my job to drive through that. We had opportunities this year but circumstances were not favourable."

League well

Victorious England look to the future

Wembley

Striker answers manager's prayer with goals to revive Birmingham

Claridge's divining quality ends drought

Birmingham City 2
Southend United 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BARRY FRY, ever one for the swift soundbite or public relations stunt, was recently photographed praying in the Tilton Road goalmouth at St Andrew's. Fry, the Birmingham City manager, was appealing for goals after his side had scored only twice in a winless streak of five Endsleigh Insurance League first division matches. Yesterday, his wish came true. Just about.

It was not the most graceful of displays against Southend United, Fry's former employer, but it was enough to end a frustratingly barren spell and lift Birmingham into sixth place in the table at the head of a gaggle of seven clubs on 16 points. For that, if little else, Fry should be grateful.

"We've just been doing something right," he said. "We've still got a lot of injuries — in fact, the bulk of last season's team — but when they get back, we'll obviously be a lot stronger. I always thought we would be better in the second half of the season. As long as we can keep in touch with the front-runners, I'll be happy."

Fry's plea for divine intervention took a long time to be answered in the affirmative during a scruffy first half. How Birmingham, who have already used 23 players this season, did not break the deadlock before the 42nd minute was a mystery. It was as if he was mocking them, promising so much but delivering nothing.

Chance after chance fell their way, with Bowen's left-wing raids a constant source of supply, yet they contrived, almost comically, to squander them. Hunt's corner curled over nicely for Castle, but his

crisp volley was struck into the ground and cleared the crossbar on the first bounce.

In the 24th minute, Bowen eased past Dublin and saw his shot deflected high into the air. With Royce caught off his line, Claridge had the easiest of headers into the unguarded net. He nodded it wide. Edwards blazed over. Royce saved from Claridge, and Claridge, again, wasted an opening — his pathetic drive threatening only a fluttering corner flag.

Southend's efforts were restricted to patient and well-crafted breaks, with Hails often to the fore and Marsh not far away in support. Three minutes before the interval, however, the irritated Birmingham through breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Inevitably, it was an untidy goal. Bowen wriggled his way through for the umpteenth time at found Claridge in space. His shot was hardly of Yeobah vintage yet it was struck with just enough pace and direction to roll under Royce and over the line.

Bob Latchford, a former England and Birmingham marksman of some repute, was enlisted to perform the half-time raffle in the centre circle. Such evocative memories of his thunderous finishing power would surely inspire his modern successors to greater things. Surely?

Sadly, it was a forlorn hope, though Bowen continued to mesmerise anybody in his immediate vicinity. Birmingham became increasingly unable to use the glut of possession that came their way. Southend's ventures forward were less and less frequent while a mass of substitutions did little to improve the overall cohesion. In the 74th minute, though, Claridge created and concluded a goal that Yeobah would have been proud of. Collecting



Edwards, the Birmingham defender, stretches high to make contact with the ball during his team's win yesterday

the ball wide out on the left touchline, near halfway, he set off on a typically loping run that took him past several half-hearted challenges.

Claridge then glanced up, spotting Royce too far out, and released an arcing shot that glided over the goalkeeper for his fourth goal of the season. A touch of class, at last, at the Tilton Road end. Fry's prayers, after all, had been heard.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-2-2) Bennett — G Poole, A Edwards, M Johnson, G Cooper — S Pinner (sub R O'Leary), J Hunt, S Castle, J Bowen (sub J Martin, 80) — A Chatterley (sub R Forsyth, 82), S Claridge

SOUTHEND UNITED (4-2-2) Royce — K Dublin, M Lapper, M Berrill, C Parnage (sub M Hone, 73), M Marsh, S Tilton, J Hails — A Thompson (sub D Renge, 67) P Road (sub G Jones, 45)

Referee: W Burns

Derby doubt over Cantona

THE dust had hardly settled on Eric Cantona's return to the FA Carling Premiership than an injury clouded the French footballer's horizon. Attempting to sharpen his match fitness by playing for Manchester United's reserves on Saturday, Cantona damaged his right knee, and may not have recovered in time for the Manchester derby on Saturday.

A crowd of 21,502, the biggest in England on a day without Premiership fixtures, saw Cantona's involvement

restricted to just 18 minutes after a tackle involving Jason Bunt, the young Leeds United player, at Old Trafford.

United initially said that they hoped that the injury was only slight, but then said that Cantona, who six days earlier scored on his return to the first team against Liverpool after a nine-month suspension, would need three or four days of rest and treatment.

United have already decided not to risk Cantona in a testimonial match for Bobby Smith, the Swansea City care-

taker-manager, at the Vetch Field tonight.

Ken Ramsden, a United spokesman, said: "Our medical staff feel that travelling would only aggravate his injury. Eric must rest and have treatment for the next three or four days."

Diego Maradona enjoyed a less troublesome day, helping Boca Juniors to beat Colon 1-0 in an Argentine league match. His first competitive game since completing a 15-month ban for drug abuse, although he was booked for dissent.

Leicester looking to close the Premiership divide



Molby: influential

Barnsley 2
Leicester City 2

BY PETER BALL

ELEVEN months ago, the break for international matches turned into the week of the long knives at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership. In the shake-up, as Tottenham Hotspur, Everton and Aston Villa dismissed their managers, Leicester City, the bottom club, also had to find a new man at the helm. Mark McGhee arrived with impressive credentials, but he was unable to prevent them dropping straight back down to the Endsleigh Insurance League. This season, things are looking up.

Barnsley, too, have their ambitions, and with the most exciting individual on view in their teenage substitute, Martin Bullock, the game at Oakwell on Saturday was an excellent advertisement for the first division.

Leicester looked the more composed, accomplished side. Looking good in the Endsleigh League, however, is a world away from being equipped to cope in the Premiership, and the players who passed the ball around with such style were the same ones who had struggled so desperately a year ago.

"A major factor in the turnaround is the different level," McGhee said. "I think we have improved things and I think we are a better team today than we were with two months to go last season. But today's team were all here when I arrived — the players I brought in in the summer were all missing, and that obviously encourages me that we are getting towards a squad which will be a Premier League squad."

"But we are not kidding ourselves. We aren't in the same class as Manchester United or Liverpool, and that is what we are trying to aspire to." Leicester certainly look better equipped than they were two years

ago, when they sneaked up through the play-offs. The five players missing here will help even more, but the importance in this game of two experienced former Premiership midfield players, Jan Molby and Garry Parker, also justified to the gap between the leagues.

Molby, who is on loan from Liverpool, still passes the ball with fluency, and was involved in Barnsley's few good moments in the first half. It was his opposite number, however, who ran the game until half-time. At Nottingham Forest — and Villa when he got the chance — Parker was a useful performer, but a bit-part player rather than the main man. At Oakwell, he controlled the first half, directing Leicester's smooth attacks with his passing.

He had been so effective that Bullock came on at the interval with instructions just to occupy Parker. He did rather more than that. Bullock looks like a 12-year-old who has strayed out of a playground, but his skill is

undoubted, and he immediately reduced Leicester's hulking defenders to a quivering mass with his darting dribbles. He also showed that his frail body and mismatched legs are misleading, beating Poole with a beautifully struck shot from 18 yards which flew into the top corner for his first goal for Barnsley.

Leicester, though, showed their resilience, and just as Barnsley had before the interval, they scrambled an equaliser from a corner — this one such a scramble that, an hour after the game, Carey, Walsh and Lowe were all claiming it. "I'll let them fight over it on Monday — my money's on Brian Carey," McGhee said, but Walsh is favourite to claim his fifth goal for the club.

BARNLEY (4-2-2) D Watson — N Eaden, S Davis, G Betch, A Woods (sub M Bullock, 60), G Archibald — J Molby, N Rodham — C Jackson, A Patten (sub D Shepherd, 80), A Bennett (sub J Martin, 82), K Poole — S Grayson, C Hail, S Walsh, M Whitton, M Blake, G Parker — M Jordan (sub E Halsey, 78), D Lowe, J Lawrence (sub B Carey, 70) — M Roberts

Referee: D Alton

Powerful Rae casts light on Millwall's outlook

Watford 0
Millwall 1

BY KEITH PIKE

THIS was no great match and Millwall are no great team, but for this season at least, pretty good may suffice and pretty good they most certainly are.

Ask Everton, eliminated from the Coca-Cola Cup on their own patch on Wednesday, or Nottingham Forest, beaten in the same competition last season, or Arsenal, or Chelsea, both dispatched from the FA Cup in 1995. Football flukes are one thing; they do not come in batches of four.

Yet twice in the past three seasons, Mick McCarthy has driven Millwall to within striking distance of the FA Carling Premiership, only to see them buckle when push came to shove. This morning, they lie second in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, deprived of the leadership only by Steve Walsh's late equaliser for Leicester City at Barnsley on Saturday. Can they stay the course this time? McCarthy had a one-word answer: "Yes."

His faith stems from a back

five that gives away goals so grudgingly, and a midfield trio that can win the ball and pass it to good effect. If Millwall are comparatively unbalanced and ineffective in attack, where Mallick and Fuchs appear to be singing from different hymn sheets, McCarthy is not too fussed. Quite simply, he believes, his team's weaknesses will not prove so costly this season

Croatia's game of hope ... 26

because of the bigger failings of his rivals.

"I don't think this is a great league, and there is not one outstanding team in it," McCarthy said. If he can keep the squad together, he said, Millwall have a "great chance".

It is the "if" word that has plagued both manager and club. Sheringham, Armstrong and Kennedy are just a few of those lured away by the Premiership's riches, and now onlookers are being focused on the likes of Ben Thatcher, the young left back, rated by the well-travelled team-mate, Kerry Dixon, as the outstanding player outside the top division and "an

England certainty". Taylor, the two-goal tormentor of Everton, is another; bought for £15,000 and now worth a couple of noughts more.

McCarthy, though, is not having sleepless nights. "None of them have any desire to leave, and while they are still ambitious they are happy to stay because they are doing well," he said.

Thatcher may be Millwall's most precious asset, but at Vicarage Road his crossing was poor and his positional play occasionally suspect. It was Alex Rae who caught the eye, and who won the match. Orchestrating from deep and exploiting the gaps down Watford's flanks, he eventually tired of missed opportunities ahead of him. With an hour gone — and just after Palmer had hit the Millwall crossbar — Rae moved forward to beat Miller from 25 yards, the goalkeeper getting to the ball but failing to cope with the venom of the shot.

WATFORD (3-4-1-2) K Miller — C Foyler, D Holdsworth, W Miller — G Davis, S Palmer, R Johnson, G Porter — C Parnage (sub G Pacher, 78min) — T Moore (sub D Buckley, 67), J Morales (sub K Phillips, 70)

Referee: D McKeown

Aldridge sending the right signals

Tranmere Rovers 1
Luton Town 0

BY IAN RODGERS

CAUGHT between the major supermarket chains of Birkenshead and the refurbished Tranmere Rovers stadium, Woodchurch Lane, the approach road to Prenton Park, retained the old world charm of a bygone era.

Antique collectors and an afternoon tea shop blended with the more modern trade of video hire, yet the picture looked no different from the depictions of 1920 as displayed in a newspaper's window. Timeless.

Just a Charleston dance step away, the football equivalent of this serene Utopia was leading Tranmere to another victory. Referring to John Aldridge as "experienced" is synonymous with labelling the O.J. verdict debatable.

Afterwards, Luton's centre-half, Trevor Peake, claimed the Irish international "has improved" — a reference to the fact that both have duelled with each other since their formative years in the old fourth division with Newport and Lincoln.

The Rovers striker was not

alone in the 30-plus bracket on Saturday and combined with Pat Nevin on several occasions, including the fourth-minute winner.

The more mature player complement was completed by Gary Stevens and Shaun Teale, both of whom could prove better buys than Aldridge. Their steadiness in defence allowed Rovers' midfield abundant opportunities to control the first 45 minutes.

In the second half, the home side was so confident of victory that it spurned some excellent chances, and Luton readily accepted these invitations to fight back. McLaren, Harvey and the excellent Oakes all tried without success to beat Coyne. Rovers' diminutive Welsh international goalkeeper.

Aldridge departed Prenton Park and headed straight for the Republic's crucial European championship fixture with Latvia — and hopeful inclusion in the starting eleven. His present form should be noted by Ireland manager Jack Charlton.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-2-2) D Coyne — J Thomas, J McGraw, S Teale, G Stevens — G Brennan, G Jones, A Jones, P Nevin — G Bennett (sub M Moore, 55min), J Woodcock (sub J Martin, 82), K Poole — S Grayson, C Hail, S Walsh, M Whitton, M Blake, G Parker — M Jordan (sub E Halsey, 78), D Lowe, J Lawrence (sub B Carey, 70) — M Roberts

Referee: P Richards

Taylor makes pledge to take Bull by the horns

Ipswich Town 1
Wolverhampton W 2

BY PAT GIBSON

THE facts speak for themselves. While Steve Bull has been suspended, Wolverhampton Wanderers have scored nine goals in three games, all away from home, to begin their climb from the lower reaches of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division and reach the third round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

So will Bull get back into the side? "I was hoping nobody would ask that question," Graham Taylor smiled, looking remarkably relaxed for a manager who is about to be impaled on the horns of his greatest dilemma since he replaced another legendary centre forward in one of the most controversial decisions of his England reign.

"The Wolves and Steve Bull are the nearest thing I've ever come across to being a one-man club," he said. "But you've got to strike a balance and somewhere along the line I have to deal with the situation. It doesn't matter what's happened to me in the past, I will deal with it in what I think is the right way for the benefit

of the whole club." There can be little doubt which way that will be after Wolverhampton's first away win in the league this season had averted the danger of the pre-season favourites for promotion to the FA Carling Premiership slipping embarrassingly into the relegation area.

Bull, an idol at Molineux for ten years and Wolverhampton's record goalscorer, is so set in his ways that when he is in the side they can only play one way, the way Taylor's detractors think his sides always play.

Without Bull, they can be more mobile and flexible and it was their mobility and flexibility which enabled them to withstand an early Ipswich onslaught, combined, to just one goal from the penalty spot, and then hit back with two goals of their own.

Ipswich, much the more inventive side in the first half-hour, had taken a deserved lead when Young pulled back Mathie and Sedgley slotted in the penalty, but they were undone by the lightning breaks of Daley, Williams

and, most significantly, Goodman, who is fast taking over Bull's mantle.

First Goodman picked up the ball near the halfway line, left Mowbray, Ipswich's new signing from Celtic, on his backside and outpaced Stockwell before heading Wright at the near post for his tenth goal of the season. Then, with Ipswich still reeling, Goodman headed goalwards in a mêlée following a corner and the ball went in via Williams' knee and the goalkeeper's arm.

Wolverhampton's only worry after that was whether they could defend their lead, which they had failed to do in three previous away games. They did it surprisingly easily and while Taylor reckoned that it was too early to say whether this was the turning point in their season, George Burley, the Ipswich manager, was unequivocal. "Wolves will be thereabouts at the end of the season," he said. "No doubt about that."

IPSWICH TOWN (4-2-2) M Sedgley — M Stockwell, A Mowbray, S Sedgley, M Tancos (sub P Yellow, 45min) — G Mathie, G Williams, G Thompson, S Shaw — A Mathie, J Stockwell — J Wright (sub J Martin, 82), K Poole — S Grayson, C Hail, S Walsh, M Whitton, M Blake, G Parker — M Jordan (sub E Halsey, 78), D Lowe, J Lawrence (sub B Carey, 70) — M Roberts

Referee: M Pate

Sunderland shape up to emulate North East neighbours

Crystal Palace 0
Sunderland 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

CRYSTAL Palace have two first-team coaches and, in Steve Coppell, a technical director, which, on the basis of this performance, is rather like the greasy spoon corner cafe employing two pastry chefs and a head waiter.

Relegation from the FA Carling Premiership was a close-run, if none too surprising thing for Palace. Newly relegated clubs ought to have an advantage over their Endsleigh Insurance League rivals. They are used to better opposition and can afford, like Leicester City, to plot how to fare better next time round while kicking their heels at the top of the table.

Or relegation can work against you. The sniping between Alan Smith, the former Palace manager, and Ron Noades, their chairman, at the end of last season was embarrassing. The open criticism of players was divisive. The loss of so many key personnel — Salako, Southgate, Armstrong — was unsettling. Now, a significant number of current first-team favourites including Coleman, Gordon and Shaw, have asked to leave.

Ray Lewington, who shares the coaching with Peter Nicholas, argued that just because some among his squad have wandered, it did not mean they played badly. Well, of course, they did not — if a player puts himself in the shop window he is bound to dust himself down.

The real effect of transfer requests is on everyone's nerves. Palace snatched edgily at their goalscoring opportunities, misread each other's passes and Martyn, usually one of the most composed goalscorers in the country, managed to allow the ball to spin out of his grasp and then concede a penalty inside the opening 27 seconds.

Lewington cannot put his faith in consolidation so he is counting on the first division being a cushy number. "There's no one that great, Sunderland are the best side we have played," he said.

Peter Reid's team certainly outplayed Palace. Sunderland are all that Palace are not optimistic, ambitious, confident. Had the south London side been awarded two penalties and failed to score from either, the ensuing collapse would have been comprehensive. But the visitors survived Scott's penalty hitting an upright and Bracewell's flying well wide to take victory through Kelly's slightly misfired shot in the 75th minute.

Sunderland were almost relegated last season, but Reid somehow fastened the club on to the coat-tails of the North East revival and, without the money available to Newcastle United and Middlesbrough, built a side that could make it into the Premiership.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-2-2) N Martin — J Edwards, R Shaw, C Coleman, D Gaddan — D Holden, A Roberts, R Houghton, V Vincent (sub L McKenzie, 80min) — D Lister, G Taylor

Referee: P Pate

Bonetti left to question wisdom of plying trade in England

Charlton Athletic 0
Grimsby Town 1

BY IVO TENNANT

AH, GRIMSBY. Do not imagine that the lustre went out of the place when the trawling industry contracted and Patricia Hodge moved elsewhere to tread the boards. So well-known on the continent is its football club that Ivano Bonetti, the first Italian to play in the Endsleigh Insurance League, was only too keen to join them.

That, at least, is Grimsby manager Brian Laws's story, and on this occasion it would be a shame to be too cynical. Besides, with a name like that, Bonetti must surely be a relative of one of England's former goalscorers. In this, his first league game for Grimsby, he created the only goal against a team that last week knocked Wimbledon out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Grimsby believe they have unearthed as good a foreign player as they are ever likely to attract. A few years ago, Bonetti was appearing in a European Cup final, for Sampdoria against Barcelona. He might not be of the same lineage as Peter Bonetti, but his brother, Dario, was also good enough to take part in a European Cup final, this for AS Roma.

The salient point to be resolved, though, is whether, at the age of 31, Bonetti will make an impact on the Endsleigh League. There are, apparently, any number of Italians of his age who could be enticed to England. Bonetti holds his own contract and is well-off. He is on trial at Grimsby and is free to do as he pleases. Many more matches like this and he will soon be returning home. For the standard was pitiful. Bonetti was sucked into the whirlpool of ineptitude along with everybody else. "There were not too many who wanted to take responsibility on or off the ball," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said.

Curbishley reckoned Charlton have not played so poorly all season. They were evidently jaded after their exertions against Wimbledon. Grimsby have as many as 15 individuals carrying an injury of one sort or another, which tells not only of how Bonetti came to join them, but also of the absurd amount of football required of them.

Grimsby, however, achieved their objective. Jewell, left unmarked owing to Balmer's discomfort with a rib injury, made the most of Bonetti's hooked, through-ball. That was in the 25th minute, whereupon Grimsby enveloped the midfield, restricting Charlton to two, perhaps three, chances. Other Italians might be drawn to the Endsleigh League, but only those of a certain age with limited options.

CHARLTON (4-2-2) M Salmon — J Humphrey, P Chapple, S Balmer (sub: R Bales, 55min), S Bales — J Martin, D Robinson, 64, P Garland, J Robinson, L Bowyer — K Grant (sub G Nelson, 64), C Fothergill

Referee: I Hurreley

Where football offers hope of a brighter future

As night fell on Croatia yesterday and a full, luminous moon rose over the Adriatic, the Poljud Stadium in Split resounded to a deafening roar. More than 40,000 voices shouted "Torcida Croatia!" They lit their flares, dared Italy to try to become the first visiting nation ever to win on Croatian soil and reflected a fanaticism that had grown from the spectators of Hajduk Split 45 years ago.

To witness this was to realise that the stadium, still bearing the bullet holes of war, was, for some hours yesterday, the epicentre of the Balkans' hope for peace. Dr Franjo Tudjman, the President of Croatia since it declared independence five years ago, rose to meet the acclaim of his people — as well he might, for the *Torcida*, the most fanatical group among Split's football-following public, had been recruited for the army at had lost so many in the fight against Serbia.

'Many of these people were in this stadium the night that Tito died'

keeper for Southampton and now, in charge of Hajduk, the most successful club coach in his homeland, shouted in my ear: "You know, many, many of these people were in this stadium the night that Tito died. Personally, I was on tour in America with Southampton — Mick Channon broke the news to me — but among the 55,000 people in this stadium, thousands began to cry. The match of Hajduk against Red Star Belgrade had to be abandoned after 27 minutes. Many of us knew, even then, that the miracle of holding Yugoslavia together was dying with this man."

Now there is new expression, new hope reflected through the red and white checkboard colours representing the republic of less than five million people. Only one of their players on the ground, the goalkeeper, Drazen Ladic, still plays in the Croatian league. The reason is simple: when Katalinic's team reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup earlier this year, it was the trigger for seven of

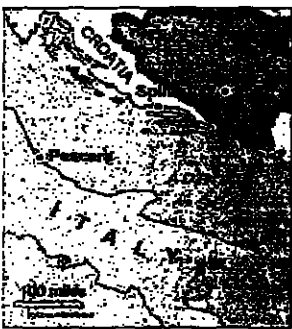
Rob Hughes finds Croatia, still coping with the ravages of war, basking in the success of its impressive national team

the first-choice 11 to move abroad, where they could earn ten times the £30,000 salary with bonuses offered by even the best club in Croatia.

Against the national team last night, Italy, with their £12 million-a-year forward, Alessandro Del Piero, were striving to avenge a defeat by Croatia in Palermo last November. Not one Croatian player received a single *kuna* for that, or for any other game in this European championship qualifying round. The Croatians are playing for expenses only, although, if they qualify from group four, there is a bonus in the region of £40,000 per man.

Tonight is the decisive moment for Croatia. Zvonimir Boban, the team captain and one of several who earn his fortune in lira, said: "He and his colleagues, in luxurious and guarded surroundings, appeared perfectly relaxed — more so than their opponents and much more so than the coaches from the

former Yugoslavia whose work as missionaries in dangerous places such as Africa had still not prepared them for the pressure being put on the young players last night. They feared that the explo-



sion of sound and weight of expectation would motivate the Italians while being too emotional, too charged for their own players. Down in the medieval centre of Split, among the calm and out-

wardly prosperous shopping precincts, the Italians had braved just a solitary night. Their hotel, close to the opera house, had been freshly daubed in red paint with the slogan, in English: "All for Croatia". Yet there is neither self-pity nor an apparent lack of the essentials of life in Split. No wonder that laughter greeted Antonio Matarrese, the president of the Italian football federation, when he tried to have this match moved to a neutral country and then grumbled that Italy would come to play only if there were guarantees from the United Nations.

Indeed, the city centre is full of United Nations vehicles, and those of many aid and religious missionary groups, but this seems to have less to do with protection than the convenience of Split airport.

From Florence, where the Italians were camped, to Split involves a 45-minute flight. From Split to Knin, where the first shots be-

tween Croats and Serbs were fired five years ago and where, in August, the Croatian Army began to reverse the course of the war, involves a flight of just a few seconds. If you are in a jet fighter. Small wonder that whoever has dared to come to play against Croatia has lost, usually heavily, even in a place that seems far removed from fear itself. Davor Suker, who plies his trade with Sevilla in Spain, had, for example, before last night, scored 14 goals in 13 internationals.

The Croatian team's endeavours yesterday caught the pulse of national hope and expectation. The capacity of the all-seat stadium, the home of Hajduk, Croatia's biggest club, could have been sold out several times and there is hope and belief that football can be a significant tool in promoting a new state.

Sport is no substitute for war, of course, but that did not stop Miljan Miljanic, the most respected Yugoslav coach of them all,

putting a proposal to Nadzad Vidosevic, the president of Hajduk Split: "Why don't you bring Hajduk to play Red Star in Belgrade?" He asked, "We would fill the stadium with 100,000 people."

The proposal was for the biggest club in Croatia to visit the biggest club in Serbia. The idealism for which Miljanic is renowned, is commendable, but would the *Torcida* be invited or willing to go? When they first celebrated a victory for Hajduk over Red Star in 1950, the leaders of the new fanatical football support group were jailed for years by the Government in Belgrade.

The final word from a night of sport between Croatia and Italy has to be in Croatian: "Zvijezdi" Cheers! El Terry Venables has turned down an offer to coach the Italian club, Internazionale, Venables, the England coach, said yesterday: "I made it clear that I was under contract to the Football Association until the end of the European championship next year."

'There is hope that football can be a tool in promoting a new state'

Resistance to change the chief hurdle for Jefferies

EVERY football club lies in wait for its new manager. He might arrive with hopes and plans, but always walks straight into an ambush. The past is ready to put up a fight.

Like any other institution, a club does not wish to be disturbed. At Heart of Midlothian, Jim Jefferies is engaged in precisely the same struggle that his predecessors lost.

In the film *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray is condemned to live the same 24 hours in his life over and over again. The Scottish version is set at Tynecastle. After each defeat, Jefferies talks about the stagnation of players who have simply been at the club too long. The press room has also heard those words delivered by other voices. Tommy

come to Tynecastle to hold out the promise of mediocrity and bare survival. Hearts, without a major trophy for 33 years, still have, astonishingly enough, the potential to be a significant force in Scottish football.

With two attractive new stands to beckon supporters, the club sold a record number of season tickets this summer. The arrival of Jefferies itself brought a late flurry of applications. He is a family-regarded former player who reciprocated the affection. All the same, Hearts are in such dilapidated condition that Jefferies still vacillated over taking the job.

At Falkirk, his former club, the principal expenditure lay in paying for Jefferies's petrol as he toured Britain, calling at half-forgotten grounds to wheel and deal for players nobody else was interested in. He then pieced the signings together into a Falkirk side that finished fifth in the premier division last season.

Naturally, Jefferies was reluctant to walk away from his achievement. At Tynecastle, too, he must have known that his Brookville methods would be less effective. Success was as much a shock as a pleasure to Falkirk fans and there was little pressure on the players. At Tynecastle, in contrast, there is still an ancestral sense that each game ought to be won.

Jefferies is therefore introducing bargain purchases such as the forward, Alan Lawrence, 34, and the defender, David Winnie, a free transfer from Aberdeen, into a testing environment. The manager has no funds whatsoever to spend, yet he surely knows that a batch of footballers with greater reputations is really required.

Money is always the answer. Rangers beat Aberdeen 1-0 at Pittodrie on Saturday because a resilient team can be plucked from the extensive and expensive Ibrox squad even when Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup and Ally McCoist are all injured. The £7 million spent on players by Celtic's new regime also explains why they are maintaining close pursuit of Rangers.

The Hearts chairman, Chris Robinson, who took the club over in 1994, inherited debts and has had to increase them to fund ground development. For all the rumours, nobody with greater means has emerged to buy him out.

Last week some senior Hearts players amused themselves by giving the apprentices a general knowledge test that revealed only general ignorance. At Tynecastle, though, even the grown-ups have very few answers.

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

McLean, the last manager, held identical views. He was sacked in the summer.

Both men are correct but being in the right is never enough. There is still the challenge of making changes to be faced. Unfortunately, when Hearts do bring in fresh blood it soon tends to be split.

On Saturday, Jefferies gave the goalkeeper, Gary O'Connor, his Bell's Scottish League premier division debut against Kilmarnock at Rugby Park. O'Connor found it unforgettable for all the wrong reasons as his errors contributed to a 3-1 defeat.

Hearts now have five points from seven games. The only consolation for Tynecastle is the even more feeble form elsewhere. Evading relegation should not, in any case, trouble Jefferies greatly. His team is afflicted by injuries, but when key players such as Craig Levein do recover, the results should stabilise.

Jefferies, however, did not



Fortune-West, the Gillingham forward bought by the supporters, hails an apparent sea change on the Medway. Photograph: Andre Camara

Gillingham find a new way forward

This is a success story born of tragedy. Gillingham, in receivership four months ago, lead the Endleigh Insurance League third division, thanks to a 1-0 defeat of Rochdale on Saturday. Paul Scally, the new owner, and Tony Pulis, the new manager, have turned the club's fortunes around and the word promotion is creeping into the local vocabulary.

Pulis has just won Gillingham's first manager of the month award for ten years. Kick-off was delayed for 15 minutes to give the crowd time to get in, there is not a club in the four divisions with a better defensive record, and already Gillingham have more points than they have

had going into their last few Christmases. Yet, but for the death of Scally's one-year-old son in a domestic accident, Gillingham's new owner would probably still be adding to his wealth and supporting Millwall.

"When my little boy had the accident, making money seemed pointless," Scally said. "I decided I would not work again until my other children were at school."

Scally sold his photo-copying business and, at 36, retired to devote his time to his family. That was in 1991. In March 1995, when the time was right to return to business, he heard of Gillingham's plight. His curiosity was aroused and, a Millwall supporter for 28 years, he

David Powell meets a management team refusing to accept the culture of failure

spent seven games on the terraces at Gillingham "to get the feel for the club".

His heart and money were won. "What impressed me more than anything was the crowd," Scally said. "What did not impress him, once his rescue package had been accepted, was the 'tremendous apathy' within the club."

"Failure was acceptable," Scally said. The offices, the boardroom, everywhere, was dingy. "It was depressing. I

thought: 'This is why people feel bad about themselves.'"

While Scally came in with the decorators, Pulis arrived with a new broom. "The apathy extended to the players," Pulis said. "A lot of them had been here a long time and had got used to losing."

Only two of the team which won on Saturday, courtesy of a headed goal by Watson, were at Gillingham last season. Though most were free transfers, money was made available for players. Putnam, a £30,000 buy, made his debut on Saturday, but the £5,000 which bought Fortune-West, the club's top scorer, from Stevenage, was given by the supporters' club.

How much has Scally put in? "Everything," he said. "If

this business collapses, I collapse. But I feel I can make it a good business and we can go places." He talks of a new ground and Premiership potential. His motives for moving in were two-fold. "I love football and I saw tremendous potential as a business."

Scally still does not know his way through the Medway towns. "I went to Rochester for the first time the other day" — but what do the fans care? As long he navigates them out of the third division.

GILLINGHAM (4-4-2): J. Stannett — R. Green, A. Watson, M. Harris, D. Naylor — N. Smith, S. Rappelle, D. Mace (sub: D. Putnam, J. Zanni, M. O'Connor — D. Bailey, I. Fortune-West.

ROCHDALE (3-5-2): J. Gray — A. Thompson, D. Daykin, P. Butler, P. Farnley, Thompson, J. Pople (sub: A. Russell, 78), D. Mann (sub: G. Sneyd, 58), J. Dwyer, P. Whithell (sub: P. Mousart, 58), M. Stuart. Referee: A. Dicks.

Fluent Swindon find route back to success

Swindon Town 2
Bristol City 0

By Nick Szczepanik

SWINDON TOWN, after starting the season like an express train, had recently shown signs of coming off the rails, but got themselves back on track with this win at a rain-swept County Ground on Saturday.

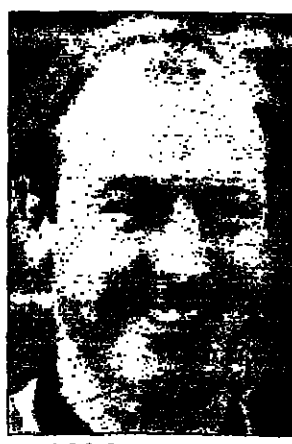
As if last week's first League defeat at Wrexham and their Coca-Cola Cup exit at Blackburn weren't bad enough, Swindon's player-manager, Steve McMahon, also received that traditional kiss of death, the manager of the month award, before the match. Nevertheless, the game began well for Swindon, who gave Paterson, the sweep-

er, few opportunities to indulge in Gullit-like breaks, reducing him mainly to first-time kicks into touch. When O'Sullivan turned on Allison's header from Robinson's cross to shoot past Dykstra, the Bristol City goalkeeper, after 12 minutes, it promised to be the first of many.

Bristol City offered little beyond Ben's right wing surges and the belief of Barnard, a new signing, that he could score from any distance. In contrast, Swindon's fluent football allowed their own sweeper, Culverhouse, and Taylor, a central defender, to get forward, and brought an opportunity to increase their lead after 34 minutes when Robinson ran past four defenders before Dykstra brought him down.

Bodin, still taking penalties despite memorable failures, hit this one hard, low, but

unfortunately straight at the keeper. Bodin's decision to give up the job now is easier to understand than Dykstra's to talk himself into a yellow card for arguing about the award of the penalty he had just saved.



McMahon: no regrets

Having reached half-time without further damage, City forced Swindon back after the restart. It took a reflex save by Digby — from Nugent's close-range shot — to sting Swindon back into life, and they launched a flurry of counterattacks.

Then, three minutes from time, the City manager, Joe Jordan, withdrew Paterson in favour of an extra attacker, Agostino, and almost immediately a misunderstanding between Starbuck and Owers presented the ball to Horlock, who swept a pass out to Finney in the newly-opened space. His low cross was touched home inside the six-yard box by Wayne Allison. "We took a gamble," said Jordan, who also revealed that he had tried to sign McMahon. "Swindon's best player," when he took over at Ashton

Gate last year, McMahon, not surprisingly, does not regret his decision to take the Swindon job instead, despite relegation last season.

"I've changed one or two things," he said. "I hope I've changed, too." His new-found ability to stay on the pitch for 90 minutes is a question of discipline, not fitness is probably the clearest example of an adjustment to his responsibilities. His Liverpool pedigree remains clear in both roles. "Today, we got back-to-backs," he said. "After two defeats, nothing but the result was important." Spoken like a true son of Anfield.

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): F. Digby — M. Scargrave, J. Culverhouse, S. Taylor — M. Robinson, W. O'Sullivan, S. McMahon, K. Horlock, P. Bodin — S. Finney, W. Allison.

BRISTOL CITY (3-5-2): F. Dykstra — M. Bodin, S. Paterson (sub: P. Agostino, 80), R. Dwyer — G. Owers, M. Kall, P. Starbuck, D. Barnard, R. Owers — J. Bodin, K. Nugent. Referee: R. Gillford.

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Jennai Cox reports on the sport of orienteering — a tortuous form of treasure hunting without the treasure

Running to catch the 8.15 while doing a crossword

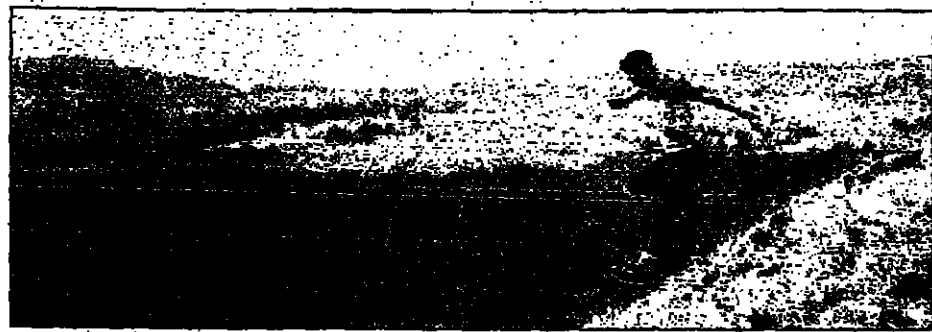
The British are very good at leaving the house late, running to catch the 8.15 and taking short cuts across people's gardens. Add to this doing a crossword puzzle as they go and you have orienteering, as described by its British founder 30 years ago. It is now a sport in which our national champions lie second in the world, after Sweden.

Various described as "running sport" and "a car rally on foot", it appeals to the eccentric British psyche. Only a warped sense of adventure sends you to remote, rural locations each weekend to collect a map and navigate your way round fixed points in the quickest time possible. Almost 22,000 people in this country now do this every year.

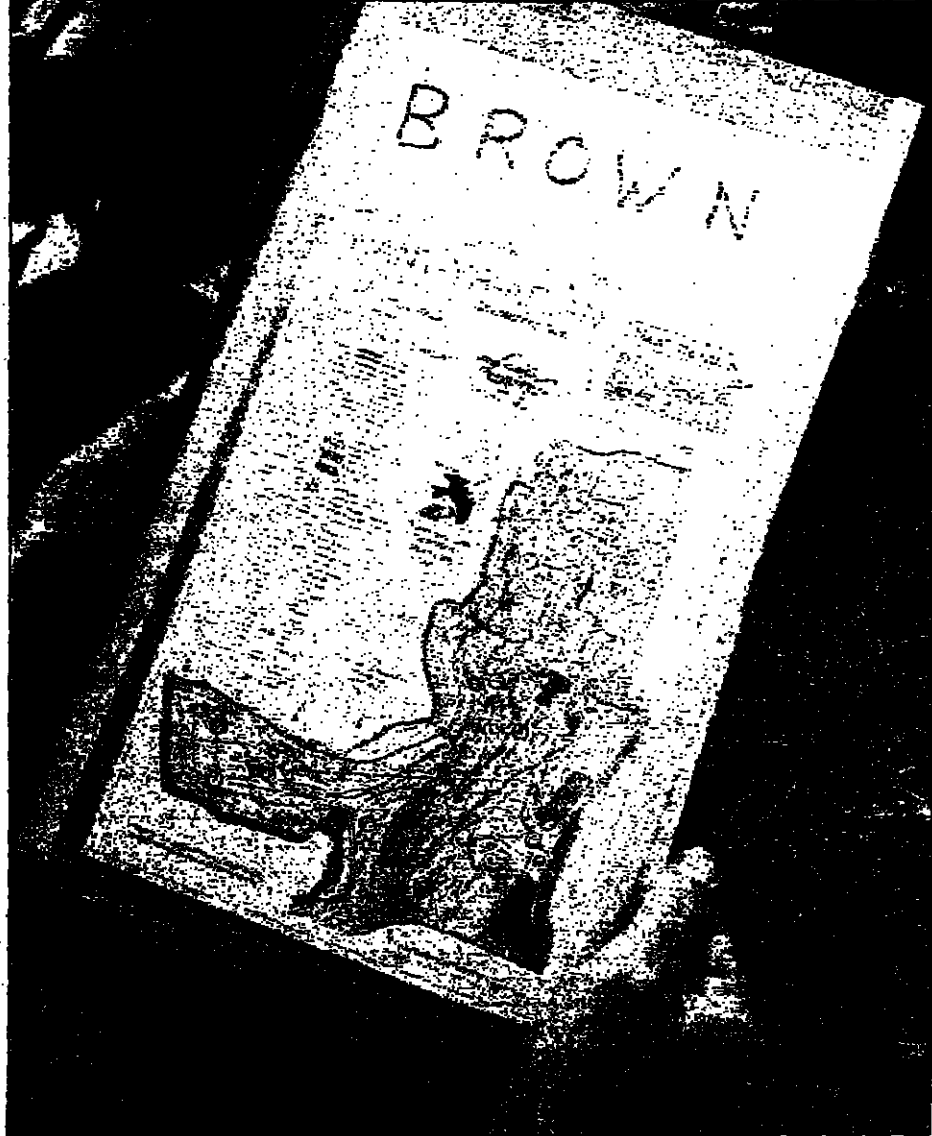
The British countryside lends itself beautifully to a sport which was originally designed by a Swedish athletics coach in 1918 to make fitness training more interesting. It was imported and developed here in the early 1960s by John Disley and Chris Brasher, former organisers of the London Marathon. Competitors require the energy for a cross-country run, the stamina to negotiate a 100-metre climb up the steepest of gradients, and the mental agility to match an unfamiliar map with new surroundings.

Any of the 1,800 events held in Britain each year new-comers are as welcome as professionals. Once registered with the event organisers and supplied with a start time and map, orienteers set off at two-minute intervals. A whistle marks the start but the runners must stop within the first ten yards to copy down the "control points" which are marked on a map like their own and pinned to a board.

Usually marked out by flags, the control points are numbered and have to be located in order. Orienteers are supposed to use their map-reading skill to decide the quickest, rarely the shortest, route to each one. This would be impossible without being able to distinguish a contour line from that marking out a stream and competitive orienteers are as good at map

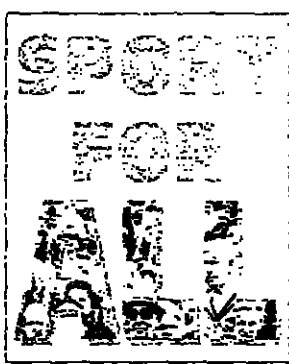


Great leveller: the shortest distance between any two points is not always the quickest



Route signs: new orienteers may not have read a map since school geography lessons

reading as they are at running. Marking a numbered card with the hole punch at each control proves that they were all visited. Each punch has a different pattern, so no short cuts there either. Competitive orienteers take their sport very seriously. There is even a special dress code resembling a mix between a football kit (spiky boots and thick socks) and a long-trousered cycling outfit. Full body cover became compulsory after an outbreak of hepatitis in Sweden during the 1970s which was believed to have spread by orienteers scratching their legs and arms on the same bits of bramble.



Searching for a control flag

Turning up for a first event in jeans and sweatshirt to watch groups of usually lean, brightly coloured, lycra-clad bodies gallivanting up hills and dashing between trees can be daunting. But trying to find each control soon becomes all-absorbing.

Tackling a course for the first time is rather like a treasure hunt, without the treasure. If your last map reading was done during geography at school, this is a rare mental challenge. Number nine of the British Orienteering Federation's tips for newcomers is: "Don't ever assume you are right and the map is wrong." Only when I failed to find a control point did I realise the wisdom of this advice. By abandoning the stopwatch and retracing my steps, the control point suddenly appeared from nowhere.

A list of basic descriptions, such as "path junction" and "small gully", hinting at where each control point has been hidden, is given at the start of the course, and can help. But wandering round in circles as vital minutes tick by is never wasted time: to finish a course without one of those punch marks is to admit defeat. Patience, and an ability to make the mind and body work together in an unfamiliar way is the winning formula. The main competitor in this sport is yourself.

Elite orienteers tackle 18km courses uncovering 25 control points, but the sport caters for any age or level of fitness. Under-18s can trace a route with the aid of string, and the older, first-time orienteer has the option of trying flatter and shorter courses. Trail orienteering, which incorporates paths, is being developed for the disabled and about 12 permanent courses already offer this facility.

Orienteering suffers from being a very spectator-unfriendly sport and has thus not attracted much media coverage or sponsorship. Participation has not grown much since the surge in 1976 when the world championships were held in Aviemore, Scotland. Typical orienteers are said to be professionals working in computing or science, not used in to the benefits their sport would enjoy with a little more promotion.

Things could be changing. Following in the lead of Sweden, where almost a tenth of the eight million population



Think while you run: following other competitors may simply mean you all end up lost

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There is quite a knack in inducing your opponents to make mistakes. It helps if you are known to be a bit tricky yourself.

Dealer West North-South vul Rubber bridge

♠K873	♥A10	♦KQJ84	♣10652
♥A10	♦KQJ84	♣10652	♠K873
♦KQJ84	♣10652	♠K873	♥A10
♣10652	♠K873	♥A10	♦KQJ84

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Queen of Spades

South was Howard Cohen, proprietor of TGR's. He opened One Heart fourth in hand. West doubled and North redoubled. He should have bid 1NT over West's double — 1NT describes his hand in one bid; redouble could have been made on a variety of hands in the 9-12 point range. Over East's Two Clubs, South jumped to Four Hearts.

West led the queen of spades — dummy played small. East played the two and Cohen ducked. The defence still seems certain to take three more tricks; however, West was worried that his partner might have Axx in spades and that a continuation would allow the declarer to ruff it out. So West switched to a low club.

Cohen put in the queen, unblocked the ace of spades and got a diamond away on the king of spades to bring home the bacon. West's play does not stand up to analysis but it is amazing what can happen if you

give your opponents a chance to go wrong.

□ The 1995 World Championships for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup begin in Beijing this morning. The British women's team faces a difficult day in the first round robin phase. They start against Japan then have to play USA 2 and Australia, two of the teams expected to be in contention for the quarter final stage. Eight teams will play a double round robin, with the leading four going through to the knock-out stages which begin on Saturday. Great Britain's group also contains Venezuela, India, Argentina and France, the reigning European champions. Britain is fortunate to have the easier of the two qualifying groups — any one of seven teams could progress from the other group — but none of the matches will be easy and the team will have to play at its best to qualify.

By Philip Howard

HUMICUBATION

- a. Lying down
- b. Hatching eggs
- c. Hibernating underground

SIALOGOGUE

- a. Speaking Chinese
- b. Stimulating saliva
- c. A child-walker

GNOMIC

- a. Statically challenged
- b. Money-trad
- c. Short and pithy

PROCRITY

- a. Height
- b. Aggression
- c. Celerity

Answers on page 36

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Intel world championship game 16, 1995

Kasparov and Fischer

WITH a draw in game 16 of the Intel World Championship, Garry Kasparov moved to within one point of overall victory in the match against his challenger, the Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. Kasparov is also one point away from a victory which will bring him a prize of \$1 million.

Kasparov took this opportunity to compare himself with the legendary American Grandmaster, Bobby Fischer, who won the world championship in 1972 and thus broke the Soviet hegemony which had been in force from 1948.

Whatever their playing strengths it is certain that Fischer could not have matched Kasparov's self-adulation and loquacity in affirming: "I am much stronger than Fischer ever was, even when he became champion. Fischer and Spassky [his defeated Russian opponent in 1972] were formidable."

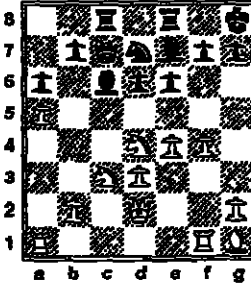
White: Garry Kasparov Black: Viswanathan Anand

Sicilian Defence

1 ♠4	♠5
2 ♠3	♠6
3 ♠4	♠7
4 ♠4	♠8
5 ♠3	♠9
6 ♠2	♠10
7 ♠0	♠11
8 ♠4	♠12
9 ♠3	♠13
10 ♠4	♠14
11 ♠1	♠15
12 ♠3	♠16
13 ♠5	♠17
14 ♠1	♠18
15 ♠6	♠19
16 ♠4	♠20
17 ♠2	♠21
18 ♠3	♠22
19 ♠1	♠23
20 ♠4	♠24

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



Kasparov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Anand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

The Times world championship book

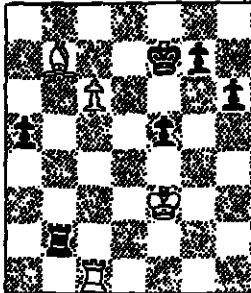
A full account of the match will appear in *The Times* book by Raymond Keene, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99), which will be published two days after the result is known. Credit card orders on 01376 327901.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, *Times World Chess Championship*, game 12, 1993. Although Black has a passed pawn on h2, the white one on c6, supported by the bishop, appears the more dangerous. How can Black save the day?



Solution on page 36

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USEFUL INFORMATION

- British Orienteering Federation, Riversdale, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HX. (01629 734042)

- The BOF can supply a list of events, local club contacts, school information packs and permanent fixtures lists, plus any additional information relating to the sport. Send a 9in by 6in SAE.

- Course prices range from 50p to £14. The average fee is between £1.50 and £3 and can be paid when you register on the day of the event, or booked in advance. Maps are provided.
- Full-body cover is required but no other equipment is needed, except a red pen to mark your map, and a compass for the more difficult courses.

- The British Schools Orienteering Association, 2 Greenway, Park Lane, Brocton, Stafford ST17 0TS (01785 662915) aims to promote and co-ordinate the sport in schools and promote environmental awareness.

Anglers on defensive as business challenges

By BRIAN CLARKE

What could prove to be the most important conference on angling for many years is to be held in London today. The three bodies which represent sections of Britain's game, coarse, and sea anglers will be uniting to examine the vast range of issues with which the sport as a whole is confronted.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the conference, however, is not the agenda itself, but the fact that the meeting is sponsored by the recently established Countryside Business Group (CBG).

The CBG aims to protect the interests of those who own land or derive all or part of their business revenues from country activities, by promoting the interests of those activities, including country sports.

The group sees threats from single-issue activist groups, "bias in the media, ignorance in the urban majority, disinterest in politicians of all parties." Among the results have been "illegitimate laws against dogs, against guns, and against hunting."

The group's membership includes a wide range of business organisations. It is levying a 1.5 per cent charge on each member's annual income from the countryside, and aims to raise at least £5 million a year. Up to £4 million of this will be spent on public relations, lobbying, and advertising, "to redress the balance."

Angling certainly faces some of the pressures the CBG identifies, including environmental pressures and the attentions of some animal rights movements. What remains to be seen is the extent to which the angling community at large will feel comfortable with this group and its wider aims.

Some may well be uneasy about the scale of the proposed enterprise, and activities which seem destined to raise the profile of field sports in general, angling among them. Not all field sports are equally loved by the public, and not all anglers share the view that the best way to protect their sport

is to risk a closer identification with, say, fox-hunting and hare-coursing.

Indeed, some anglers undoubtedly would take an opposite view. The fact — for whatever reason — that the chairman and two of the three speakers in today's session on angling protection issues are representatives of the British Field Sports Society, even in this first CBG-funded venture, is likely to be noted.

This is not to say that injections of new ideas and cash are not desirable. Nor is it to deny the effectiveness of high-powered pressure groups in some contexts and cultures. But it does argue for caution by angling's three representative groups.

Those representing the cause of angling have a thankless task. Most anglers are interested in little that is not under their rod tips, and all anglers owe a debt to the bodies which, unrecognised and with pitiful resources, represent their unfocused interests.

In their frustration and desire to move forward, there is an onus on the Salmon and Trout Association, the National Federation of Anglers, and the National Federation of Sea Anglers. Because these bodies are the focal points of the public's attention, what they eventually decide will be seen as decisions on behalf of the whole of angling, even though each body in fact represents only a percentage of all anglers in its field.

There are likely to be many different views on relationships with an organisation like the CBG — and there are certainly differing views on relationships with some other country sports. All of these views are honourable and validly-held, some of them passionately by many thousands.

Wide and deep debate throughout all branches of angling is the proper way forward, before everyone is allocated the same views in the eyes of the public, and public opinion, takes, perhaps, an altered course.



Two of Gordano's talented hockey players, Michala Hooper, left, and Sally Smeaton, tussle for possession. Photograph: David Howells

Atwell the spur behind Gordano's rise

By ALIX RAMSAY

TWELVE years ago Gordano School in Portishead did well enough but seldom shone in most sports. Then a group of pupils heard about the national schools indoor hockey championships and asked their head of PE, Sue Stone, if they could enter a team. She replied that if they could find a coach then they could send a team.

As luck would have it, the local hockey club, Portishead, had a coach in the shape of Pete Atwell. He just happened to have the free time to coach the girls and was willing to coach the school.

With his help the girls reached the national finals in their first year. As a result of the success of the players, the school now has its own Astro turf pitch, one of only two state schools in Avon to boast such a facility. The arrival of a new headmaster, Bob Summers, a hockey enthusiast, marked the beginning of the project in 1991. After two and a half years of hard work and £260,000 of fund-raising, the new floodlit pitch was opened.

Not that the success has been easy to achieve. The players are worked hard by Atwell and he refuses to put up with shirkers. The English



SPORT IN SCHOOLS

she said. "But he is an excellent coach and the girls have a tremendous team spirit among themselves."

Stone's role in the hockey production line is initially as a scout. Any young school player who shows promise is pointed in the direction of Atwell. If she is good enough and keen enough, and her parents are happy, then she moves to the specialist hockey training group.

However, with so much talent, you would think Gordano would rule the roost around the Bristol area. Not so. Only in national competitions do all the big guns line up against the best of the rest. For friendly matches, Stone selects her top players sparingly. "Otherwise no one would want to play us," she said.

And in PE lessons the girls are encouraged to rein in their talents for fear of

monopolising the session and demoralising their classmates. "It does make you think when you play, though," Hooper said. "You have to think of options other than the obvious which is good for us."

Still, with a couple of the players allowed out in school colours last week, Gordano pulled off two wins. On Tuesday, they beat Clevedon 3-0 thanks to two goals from Sarah Whitehouse and one from Leigh, and on Thursday they beat Nailsea 2-0 with Whitehouse again on target and Karen Hooper getting the other. The matches were no more than gentle outings — the British Aerospac national outdoor championships which begin in November are a different matter and the Gordano girls are ready for battle.

Schools results, page 27

Makeshift Wembley overcome cunning of Croydon

By SARAH FORDE

PLAYING against Croydon, the unbeaten women's premier league leaders, with only 13 of a squad of 23 players available is hardly ideal, but Wembley's makeshift team left the Croydon Sports Arena with a draw and little to fear for the rest of the season. While Croydon had a perfect start to the season before yesterday, with 21 goals from four games, Wembley have struggled to live up to the pre-season expectations heaped on their young shoulders.

Yesterday, however, they went ahead after 22 minutes, having hit the bar seconds earlier. The rebound was cleared upfield only to be returned with interest for Andrea Wright to beat the offside trap and slot it past Louise Cooper in goal. It was the boost that seventh-placed Wembley needed to show the league leaders how close the championship will be. They followed it with an exhibition of attacking football.

Time and again, Kelly Smith, 16, frustrated the Croydon defence with forays down the left wing, producing crosses which deserved more clinical finishing. Croydon reduced her impact on the game with some intimidating defending and her frustration was shown when she was booked in the 51st minute for kicking the ball away at a free kick. It was the only yellow card in a game that produced far more bookable offences.

Wembley always looked the more creative and in the 53rd minute, Croydon gave away a needless free kick for hand ball 35 yards out. Sue Jones's audacious attempt hit the cross bar and rebounded into the net off the back of the unfortunate Cooper. Straight from the kick-off, with Wembley still celebrating, Hope Powell orchestrated a superb finish to bring Croydon back into the game. Alex Cotter volleyed a stunning goal after Debbie Bampton produced an early cross.

Croydon have lost the lead in the premiership to Doncaster Rovers who beat Liverpool 3-1. Arsenal got back to their winning ways with a convincing 5-0 victory over Wolves. Everton recorded their first win of the season away at Millwall and Ilkeston and Villa Azores drew 2-2.

Loughran sets record straight

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

EAMONN LOUGHRAN rejected suggestions that he made a meal out of his fifth defence of the World Boxing Organisation welterweight championship in Belfast. Loughran won an overwhelming points decision in a rematch against Angel Beltré, of the Dominican Republic, at the Ulster Hall on Saturday.

The Belfast boxer, 25, took 120-109, 119-109 and 119-110 verdicts from Puerto Rican, Italian and Dutch judges. He had set the record straight after a "no contest" with Beltré four months ago, when the challenger came off worst in a clash of heads and was unable to continue beyond the third round.

Some ringside critics felt

that he should have finished off a big-hearted, but limited opponent inside the 12 one-sided rounds. Loughran, nursing two stitches in a cut left eyebrow, said: "It would have looked better if I had stopped him, but I did the next best thing by winning almost every round. If I had knocked him out in two, people would just have said he was a bum."

"I'm pleased with the overall performance. The eye was no problem. I wasn't even aware it had been cut."

Loughran looked as if he might finish it in the second round after a big right hand, which buckled Beltré's legs. The challenger was driven into one corner, then another, took some solid body punches

and did well to come through intact.

It was one of several rough passages Beltré had to negotiate. Loughran threatened to put him down in the eighth with a sharp uppercut followed by a sweeping left hook, but once again the champion was unable to press home his advantage to the full and it was clear then that he was going the distance.

It denied him the opportunity to raise his profile — and Loughran admits he may achieve the respect he feels he deserves only by beating one of the other champions. The first choice would be Felix Trinidad, the International Boxing Federation holder, of Puerto Rico.

Application earns Parrott tenth overseas title

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK



Parrott: benefiting from stricter practice regime

JOHN PARROTT won his tenth title overseas and significantly improved his chances of representing England in the World Cup next year by beating Nigel Bond 9-6 in the final of the Thailand Classic here on Saturday night.

Parrott, 31, was stung into a stricter practice regime when beaten 5-0 by Darren Morgan in the first round of the Regal Masters three weeks ago. He has now won snooker tournaments in nine countries, including China, Dubai, and Monaco.

"Don't ask me why I play so well abroad, because I haven't got a clue. I just know I am absolutely chuffed to bits," Parrott, who collected a first

prize of £40,000, said. "In this game you never know when the next big win will come."

An added bonus for Parrott is that the ranking points accrued here place him fourth in the provisional standings. Were the teams for the World Cup to be chosen now — based on the three highest-ranked players from each country — and not at the end of the season, as is actually the case, Parrott would join Peter Ebdon and Ronnie O'Sullivan in the England side.

"The World Cup is a long way off, and there are nine more counting tournaments. But I have to admit it's very much on my mind. I suppose I'll get the same mentality as potential Ryder Cup players when their selection is approaching," Parrott said.

It is a fair assumption that Parrott will qualify for the team should he reproduce the commitment, attitude, and composure under pressure which he displayed during the Thailand Classic.

Parrott, who recovered from trailing 4-2 to beat Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the semi-final, led Bond by the odd frame three times during the opening session of the final, but still ended at 4-4.

The first frame of the evening set the pattern. Bond missed an early tricky black and Parrott made a 116 clearance to lead 5-4. Parrott, the world and United Kingdom champion in 1991, doubled the lead to move 6-4 ahead before winning the next two frames on the black and a re-spotted black to take control at 8-4.

Bond, with little to lose, enjoyed his best spell of the evening with breaks of 38, 53, 41, and 74 reducing his arrears to 8-6. But Parrott needed only one scoring opportunity in the fifteenth frame. He fashioned a break of 58 to win the thirteenth tournament of a professional career which began in 1983.

Bond has now lost on all three of his appearances in the final of a ranking event. "Of course, I'd have settled for this at the beginning of the week, but it's disappointing to fall at the last hurdle again," he said. Bond was beaten by Hendry in the world championship final this year, and was runner-up to the Scot in the 1990 Rothmans Grand Prix.

Results, page 27

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

GATESHEAD

Education Department,
Civic Centre, Regent Street,
Gateshead NE8 1HH

SIR JOSEPH SWANN

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council proposes to open a new Secondary School in the Borough and to name it 'Joseph Swann Community Comprehensive School'.

The Council wishes to be satisfied that relatives of Sir Joseph Swann have no objections to the School being so named. Would any such relatives please respond to the Director of Education at the above address by 19 October 1995.

If further details are required, please telephone Mrs E A Kipling-Vasey, at Gateshead Civic Centre, on (0191) 477 1011 Ext 2251.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR 1995

PLEASE TELEPHONE 0171-782 7344 OR FAX 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and will be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Insolvency Act 1986, in relation to the above named company, will be held at the offices of Messrs Currie & Co., PO Box 555, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF on the 19 October 1995 at 10.00 am to consider any proposals under s.231(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors.

A copy of the proposals may be obtained from the above address.

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Brown makes sure of welcome return

By ALIX RAMSAY

WINNING four women's hockey league titles in six years is enough to make anyone blasé, but giving the rest of the premier division a two-week head start is taking confidence a little too far. The champions, Slough, having realised this, reverted to their old winning formula to earn their first points of the season with a 2-0 defeat of Leicester on Saturday.

The victory hinged on the Great Britain internationals in the Slough team who were returning from a week of training at Bisham Abbey. All three — Karen Brown, Mandy Nicholls and Anna Bennett — were called up for the fray, although Nicholls, who is coming back from injury, was on and off the substitutes' bench throughout the match.

Brown, as she has done for so many seasons, provided the driving force for Slough, starting the move that brought the first goal and rounding it off by burying the ball in the back of the net from the most acute of angles; and that while the match was still only six minutes old.

Despite her sporadic involvement in the game, Nicholls made her mark in spectacular style. Brought on just after half-time, she immediately found the ball on the halfway line, headed goalwards, cutting in from the byline and planting the ball in the top corner of the net. The victory, however, still leaves Slough lurking in the middle of the table, an unusual resting place for them, albeit at this early stage of proceedings.

At the top, nothing changed as Ipswich drew with Sutton Coldfield and Clifton drew with Hightown. Things had not looked too promising for the leaders, Ipswich, when they went 2-0 down at home. They made the mistake of leaving Jane Swinerton too much room and she scored two goals in four minutes. Ipswich started their recovery when Sarah Bamfield scored a minute later and completed it when Vicky Dixon levelled the scores after 40 minutes from a penalty corner.

Results, page 27

Crutchley's striking debut lifts Cannock

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ROBERT CRUTCHLEY, the former Hounslow hockey player, scored three goals on his first appearance for Cannock in a 5-0 away win against Havant in the National League yesterday.

Cannock built their success around their strong four-man middle line in which Sharpe was the most resourceful. More often than not, he got the better of his opposite number, Giles.

The first goal scored in the sixteenth minute came from a quick break through the middle initiated by Chana, helped along by Pidcock, and finished off by Organ. Crutchley obtained the second in the thirtieth minute from Sharpe's cross-pass and in the second half added two more goals in the 51st and 52nd minutes, the earlier one from a short corner. Kalbir Talher completed the scoring in the 61st minute after a brilliant solo run.

Havant, rebuilding their side with younger players, were unfortunate to have started the season with a tough fixture and next week they will entertain Old

Loughranians who on Saturday defeated Bourneville 4-0 with Nick Thompson scoring three goals from short corners. Guildford also made an encouraging start with a 5-0 victory at home over Trojans. Jennings scored two goals, one from a short corner, and Hall two, with Powell adding to the score.

Reading, another fancied side, came away from Osterley with a 3-1 victory over Indian Gymkhana. Osborn scored in the first half for Reading from a short corner with Howard Hoskin and Ashdown adding goals after the interval. Chris Kent replied for Indian Gymkhana.

Southgate achieved a resounding 7-1 away victory over Stourport, but Hounslow were beaten 2-1 at East Grinstead with Stuart Head scoring twice for the home side and Fordham replying for Hounslow.

The second division match between Oxford University and Slough was postponed because the field markings were washed out by overnight rain.

Dunlop

LEICESTER

IDE TO OUR RAC

FROM FOCUS

THE UNITED STATES

FORM FOCUS

EDGEFIELD

FOKED first time

Dunlop closes on first trainers' title

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

JOHN DUNLOP is almost certain to become champion trainer after the all-conquering Godolphin team confirmed yesterday that it is short of horses to run for the remainder of the season.

"We are running out of ammunition and there is no way we will run horses just for the sake of it," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said. "John Dunlop will win the title. He is sure to have another ten winners at least."

Nap: GEORGE BULL
(4.00 Leicester)
Next best: Diego
(3.30 Leicester)

this season and if Bahri runs and is placed in the Champion Stakes he will win. It's as simple as that."

Saeed bin Suroor, the trainer of the Godolphin horses, saw his lead at the top of the trainers' table cut to around £50,000 after Dunlop-trained horses scooped £45,000 in prize-money at Ascot on Saturday. Godolphin plans to run Emperor Jones in the Challenge Stakes at Newmarket this week but is likely to have only a handful of runners during the coming month.

Despite being at the top of his profession for a quarter of a century, Dunlop has never won the trainers' championship and when Godolphin all but swept the board in the



Brandon Magic, Swinburn, left, delivers a telling late challenge to Henry The Fifth in the Hyperion Conditions Stakes at Ascot on Saturday

midsummer group one races he appeared to have been set an impossible task.

However, the outstanding form of his string is reflected in the 115 domestic winners he has sent out from Aramale, compared to the 14 of Godolphin, and in recent weeks the lead has diminished.

Crisford, who, together with Jeremy Noseda, chartered Dunlop in the early 1980s, added: "If anyone is going to

beat us, we are delighted it is going to be John Dunlop. For 25 years John has been an outstanding trainer. It is one thing being at the top for one or two years, but to stay there is a remarkable achievement. He has been more consistent and more reliable than anyone else in terms of results year in and year out."

After growing speculation about strained relations between Sheikh Mohammed

and André Fabre, the pair have had a meeting to sort out their differences and the successful owner-trainer combination will be staying intact.

Sheikh Mohammed visited Fabre at his Chantilly yard during the Arc weekend and their discussions included horses being sent to Dubai and the different financial arrangements which apply to running a yard in Britain and France. In France, trainers

tend to make more of their revenue from the proceeds of horse sales.

None of Sheikh Mohammed's two-year-olds trained by Fabre has shown a great deal this summer so it will be a surprise if any winter in Dubai, but it is reasonable to assume that in the future Fabre will recommend some juveniles who would benefit from the Godolphin experience. Sheikh Mohammed

had not visited Fabre's yard for three years but the one-to-one meeting was cordial and another Henry Cecil-style dispute has been avoided.

Dick Hern yesterday reported Alhaarth "in top form" for the Generous Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket on Friday, for which only five have been declared. Alhaarth and Fursan, possible pacemakers for Alhaarth, are joined by Danehill Dancer and Tagula.

Dettoni's appeal fundamental to marketing policy

She is in her mid-thirties and not a regular racegoer; far from it. And it was probably the lure of a weekend's shopping and eating in Paris, rather than the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, which enabled some friends to persuade her to cross the Channel and venture through the Bois de Boulogne to Longchamp last Sunday.

After much debate, with particular emphasis on the fact that her cat has a similar sounding name, she decided to bet 50 francs on Lammaria. In a restaurant later that evening she was still purring with delight, but not over the exploits of the champion middle-distance horse of Europe. No, this woman had been captivated not so much by the Arc winner, but by the person who rode him. "Well, he is rather gorgeous — and what a star," she cooed.

I'm not sure I am best qualified to comment on the first half of her statement, although I suspect that the combination of his Latin looks, sparkling smile and the unique way he speaks English with a soft Italian-Suffolk accent means many members of the opposite sex — from nine to 90 — do indeed find him gorgeous.

However, what I know to be true is that Lanfranco Dettoni, known to one and all as Frankie, is a genuine star — and racing, or to be more precise, those in charge of marketing the sport to the outside world, are looking a gift horse in the mouth.

The infamous Marketing Plan — supposedly the blueprint for popularising racing — published last year by Lee Richardson of the British Horseracing Board (BHB) went on to demand about corporate objectives, opportunities and threats, analysis, indicative results estimates, and return-on-marketing investment. Nowhere in the 60-plus pages, as far as I could see, was there any mention of the potential of top jockeys to pull in the crowds.

In fairness, that omission may have been because of the relative absence in the past of stars in the weighing room with the necessary media skills to help market racing effectively. Steve

Cauthen was a notable exception, but he was more of an ambassador for racing. Dettoni possesses real celebrity status, a magic all of his own, which captivates anyone on the racecourse, and especially those watching racing on TV at home. He has the clean-cut image of a Gary Lineker, which would make any mum proud to have him as a son-in-law. He has the humour and chatter which appeals to everyone, particularly the young. And, above all, his effervescence and natural enthusiasm makes racing seem so much fun and so enjoyable.

He, more than any other person, or horse, in racing today, has the qualities required to transform the sport's appeal and fortunes. If you think I am exaggerating, just consider what has happened in Japan, where jockeys have been promoted as the heroes of the sport and made racing enormous.

RICHARD EVANS



Racing commentary

ly popular, particularly with young people. Yutaka Tate, the idol of the Japanese turf, gets more coverage than Eric Cantona and Princess Diana put together, even though he is a less accomplished rider than Dettoni.

So my suggestion to Lee Richardson and the marketing gurus at the BHB is simple. Take your Marketing Plan and hide it on the highest shelf where it can gather dust. Forget about Sunday and evening racing campaigns. Racecourses should be perfectly capable of promoting their own events with particular regard to local needs.

Instead, bring in the best marketing brains and devote most of your budget to a nationwide campaign built around Dettoni. You have a star in your midst. Stop ignoring such a valuable asset.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot
Goosey soft, with heavy patches.
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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS			
Barclays Bank	125.00	+0.25	0.12
Bank of Scotland	110.00	+0.50	0.15
Bank of Ireland	105.00	+0.25	0.18
Bank of England	115.00	+0.10	0.10
Bank of America	120.00	+0.30	0.14
Bank of West	118.00	+0.20	0.16
Bank of Montreal	112.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of Nova Scotia	108.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of Toronto	114.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of Victoria	106.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of New Zealand	102.00	+0.15	0.16
Bank of South Africa	100.00	+0.10	0.12
Bank of China	110.00	+0.20	0.14
Bank of India	108.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of Japan	112.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of Korea	105.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of Thailand	103.00	+0.15	0.16
Bank of Indonesia	101.00	+0.10	0.12
Bank of Malaysia	104.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of Singapore	106.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of Hong Kong	109.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of Taiwan	111.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of Philippines	107.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of Vietnam	100.00	+0.10	0.12
Bank of Cambodia	102.00	+0.15	0.16
Bank of Laos	104.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of Myanmar	106.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of Brunei	108.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of Timor	110.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	112.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of West Timor	114.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	116.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	118.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	120.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	122.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	124.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	126.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	128.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	130.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	132.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	134.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	136.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	138.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	140.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	142.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	144.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	146.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	148.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	150.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	152.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	154.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	156.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	158.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	160.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	162.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	164.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	166.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	168.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	170.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	172.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	174.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	176.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	178.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	180.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	182.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	184.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	186.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	188.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	190.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	192.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	194.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	196.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	198.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	200.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	202.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	204.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	206.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	208.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	210.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	212.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	214.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	216.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	218.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	220.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	222.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	224.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	226.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	228.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	230.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	232.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	234.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	236.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	238.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	240.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	242.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	244.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	246.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	248.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	250.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	252.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	254.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	256.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	258.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	260.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	262.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	264.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	266.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	268.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	270.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	272.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	274.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	276.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	278.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	280.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	282.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	284.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	286.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	288.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	290.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	292.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	294.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	296.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	298.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	300.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	302.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	304.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	306.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	308.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	310.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	312.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	314.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	316.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	318.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	320.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	322.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	324.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	326.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	328.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	330.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	332.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	334.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	336.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	338.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	340.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	342.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	344.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	346.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	348.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	350.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	352.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	354.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	356.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	358.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	360.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	362.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	364.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	366.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	368.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	370.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	372.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	374.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	376.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	378.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	380.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	382.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	384.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	386.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	388.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	390.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	392.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	394.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	396.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	398.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	400.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	402.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	404.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	406.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	408.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	410.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	412.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	414.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	416.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	418.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	420.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	422.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	424.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	426.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	428.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	430.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	432.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	434.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	436.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	438.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	440.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	442.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	444.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	446.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	448.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	450.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	452.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	454.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	456.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	458.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	460.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	462.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	464.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	466.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	468.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	470.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	472.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	474.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	476.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	478.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	480.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	482.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	484.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	486.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	488.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	490.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	492.00	+0.15	0.13
Bank of East Timor	494.00	+0.25	0.17
Bank of East Timor	496.00	+0.10	0.11
Bank of East Timor	498.00	+0.20	0.19
Bank of East Timor	500.00	+0.15	0.13

DISTRIBUTORS				NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Culver Holdings, Firecrest Group, Forward Technology, Martin Currie Pacific Trust.

Finals: International Biotechnology, Lucas Industries, Manganese Bronze, MR Data Management, Tay Homes, JD Wetherspoon.

Economic statistics: Producer prices (September), overseas transactions of the film and television industry (1994).

TOMORROW

Interims: Capital & Regional Properties, Cobham, A Cohen, Henderson Highland Trust, JJB Sports, Jones Group, NB Small Companies Trust, Trafficmaster, Walker Greenbank.

Finals: European Smaller Companies, Five Oaks Investments, Hambros Smaller Asian, Lendu Holdings, Lloyds Chemists, Old Mutual South Africa, St Ives, William Sinclair Holdings, Thomtons.

Economic statistics: Construction — new orders (August).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Alexandra Workwear, AF Bulgin.

THURSDAY

Interims: David Brown Group, N Brown Group, Etam, Lionheart, Morgan Grenfell Latin American, Time Products, Tudor.

Finals: Cradley Group. Economic statistics: New earnings survey (1995) part b: analyses by agreement, retail prices index (September), machine tools (August), June census of agriculture and horticulture in UK (1994 provisional).

FRIDAY

Interims: Biscuit Mining, Environmental Investment, London & Associated Investment Trust.

Finals: None scheduled. Economic statistics: Usable steel production (September), Confederation of British Industry survey of distributive trades (September).

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Charges take shine off Lucas

LUCAS INDUSTRIES: The group is by far the biggest reporting this week and full-year figures today will be eagerly awaited by the City. Lucas is much leaner and fitter these days.

George Simpson has wasted little time in whipping the group into shape after his appointment as chief executive last year. The group has benefited from fast-growing markets. But the gloss has been taken off today's figures by last week's announcement from the company that the figures would be accompanied by further provisions and charges totalling almost £100 million.

That puts the total provisions in the past couple of years at almost £190 million. The latest provisions relate to the cost of the company's dispute with the US Government over aerospace contracts. Last week, Lucas agreed to pay civil damages of \$88 million. Lucas had been charged with falsifying records for the supply of gearboxes by its subsidiary, Western Geared Systems, for the US Navy and Army fleet of F/A-18 Hornet fighters.

These provisions, which will include a further £6 million relating to the adjustment of costs on disposals, will knock a big hole in the final profit numbers.

Brokers had originally pencilled in pre-tax profits of between £135 million and £140 million, but after stripping out the provisions of almost £100 million, Robert Speed at Henderson Crosthwaite reckons the final figure will be nearer £38 million.

Last year, Lucas recorded pre-tax losses of almost £130 million, including provisions of £87.6 million. The dividend for the year is likely to be an uncovered 7p. But Mr Speed says that trading at Lucas has been "very strong". Sales of automotive parts, including brakes and body systems, should be 18 per cent higher. The diesel side of the business is expected to achieve sales of £1 billion before the turn of the century compared with automotive sales overall of £2.2 billion for the current year.

MANGANESE BRONZE: Full-year figures today should show a



George Simpson would have seen Lucas soar if it had not been for provisions of £100 million

further sharp improvement, with brokers looking for pre-tax profits of about £4 million, double the £2 million made last time. Manganese is best known as Britain's leading builder and supplier of the famous black taxi cab. Demand for black taxis has grown rapidly during the past few years, with an increasing number of taxi operators choosing to use purpose-built vehicles with wheelchair access.

LLOYDS CHEMISTS: Persistent bid speculation will hopeful-

ly be pushed into the background when the company unveils full-year figures tomorrow. For months, stock market speculators have pondered the possibility of a bid from Kingfisher and a disappointing set of figures is certain to further fuel their hopes.

The group's problems started in March when shares in the group tumbled after it shocked the City with the news that its Supersave chain was trading at a loss. Since then, stories about possible takeovers have been rife. There have even been sugges-

tions that the group has asked Samuel Montagu, its merchant bank adviser, to look round for potential suitors.

UBS, the broker, has forecast unchanged pre-tax profits of £55 million, while the rival NatWest Securities is looking for a small improvement of £2 million to £7 million. However, this figure will be struck before provisions of at least £13 million relating to Supersave.

A negative cash flow is also envisaged reflecting an increase in interest charges after a rise in

debt from £3.4 million to £7 million. The extra funds have been gobbled up by the group's expansion of its pharmaceutical wholesale business.

An increase in the payout from 9.5p to 10p is envisaged.

ETAM: Little cheer is expected from the group when it reports half-year figures on Thursday. The group has made no less than three profit warnings during the past year. The only uncertainty for brokers is how big the losses will be at the half-way stage.

They have pencilled in a deficit of £3 million for the first six months compared with a profit of almost £6 million for the corresponding period. The outlook for the remainder of the year looks little better.

Much of the group's problems stem from its decision to move up-market.

Last year, it made profits of £12 million but brokers say the group will be lucky to scrape together profits of £5 million, overall. Much will depend on the size of those first-half losses. The Etam board has spent much of its time in recent years fending off the unwanted attention of its biggest shareholder, Foschini, the South African retailer, which owns 38 per cent. It looks as if Etam's new managing director, Nick Hollingworth, faces an uphill struggle in his efforts to steer the group back on course.

NB SMALLER COMPANIES INVESTMENT TRUST: Tomorrow, the trust takes the unusual step of announcing two dividend payments. The 0.94p interim payout will be confirmed and there will also be a special bonus dividend of 0.7p in connection with the trust's forthcoming merger with London Smaller Companies Investment Trust.

Both trusts are managed by 3i Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of 3i, the flagship investment trust, which wants to raise the profile of the new 3i Smaller Quoted Companies Trust by using its name. The newcomer will have assets of £90 million, putting it into the top six in its sector.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Cheer over output prices

This is a big week for inflation figures in Britain and America, starting with UK September producer prices. Recent surveys from the Confederation of British Industry and purchasing managers have suggested that the worst of the output price inflation is over, and this is expected to be borne out in today's figures. The consensus forecast compiled by MMS International has input prices rising 0.2 per cent, taking the annual rate down to 7.6 per cent (8.9 per cent). Output prices are also predicted to have risen 0.2 per cent, keeping the annual rate at 4.4 per cent. Talking food, drink and tobacco out of output prices, the annual rate is expected to fall to 4.8 per cent (5 per cent).

The other main inflation figures come on Thursday, with British retail prices and American producer prices for September. In Britain, the headline inflation rate is expected to edge higher to 3.7 per cent from 3.6 per cent in August. Underlying inflation is also expected to rise to 3 per cent from 2.9 per cent. The RPI measure, excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is expected to be unchanged at 2.5 per cent.

American producer prices index figures are expected to show that inflation continues to be subdued, leaving the way open for a possible further cut in interest rates at the November 15 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee.

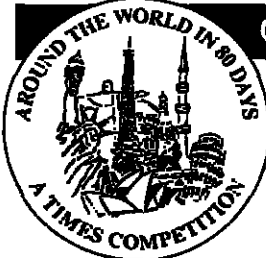
Other points of interest on the British statistical calendar are figures for construction new orders tomorrow and the CBI distributive trades survey at the end of the week.

With turmoil in European currency markets, next Sunday's Gaullist party meeting in France will be watched carefully amid speculation over the future of the Prime Minister Alain Juppé. The economy will be in focus at the Conservative Party Conference on Thursday, with Kenneth Clarke speaking.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: Buy St James Place, Hold Yorkshire Electricity, Manganese Bronze, The Observer, Buy Storehouse, Derwent Valley, Hold Hewlett, Stuart, Oasis Stores, Just Group, Sell Blenheim Group, Mail on Sunday, Buy Granada, Lasmo, Aegis Group, Independent on Sunday, Buy Blenheim, Clinton Cards, Sell Scottish & Newcastle, Sunday Telegraph, Buy Hanson, St Ives, Tay Homes.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS HOLIDAYS TO BE WON EVERY DAY



Around the World in 80 Days

Today *The Times* launches *Around the World in 80 Days*, a spectacular series of holidays inspired by the title of the Jules Verne classic. It is the most comprehensive holiday competition ever offered by a national newspaper in Britain and will include destinations to suit everyone.

There is an exhilarating range of short breaks, holidays, cruises and adventurous trips worth more than £150,000 waiting to be won. Starting today and continuing for 80 consecutive days, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in association with Cox & Kings, one of Britain's leading travel firms, will be offering the prize of a holiday for two every day.

Beginning in Europe, the journey around the world will take winners to exotic places in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Far East, Australasia, North America and the Caribbean, before finally ending in Latin America on Thursday, December 28.

You can also collect 30 of the 80 tokens which will be published daily for the chance to win £20,000 cash towards an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Readers of both newspapers will be able to book all the holidays featured in our exclusive competition at a special discount of 10 per cent off the brochure price.

Many of these discounted tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, and even tipping. You can take your holiday(s) on any of the departure dates published and the 10 per cent discount applies to all the holidays featured regardless of the price.



Holidays to look forward to include superb tours to India, Syria, Nepal, Pakistan and Brazil with Cox & Kings; city breaks to Rome and Florence with Magic of Italy; the inaugural cruise of their new ship, Minerva, with Swan Hellenic; voyages to Bermuda and Alaska with Celebrity Cruises; the idyllic islands of Tobago, Grenada and Jamaica with Caribbean Connection; two-centre holidays in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia with Simply Tropix and trips to Chicago and California with United Vacations.

Every day we will give you details of one holiday, including how to win it, how much it is worth, how much you can save and how you can get more information.

Our tour operator for this week is Cox & Kings, founded in 1758 and the world's oldest travel company. In addition to operating special tours in Europe, they remain

one of the UK's premier specialists to the Indian subcontinent and their range of 1996 brochures also includes Latin America and the Middle East. Cox & Kings has catered to the varied needs of the traveller for more than two centuries and they are renowned for an outstanding tradition of personal service and the provision of travel arrangements of the highest calibre.

Although there are a number of tour operators collaborating on this *Around the World* adventure, to get brochures for any of the holidays we feature, you should either ring the hotline or write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ, quote ref 1. All bookings must be made through Cox & Kings and must be made before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochure.

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Collect 30 of the tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and you can enter our prize draw to win £20,000 cash. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning. A voucher to attach them to will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, October 14.

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Impressions of St Petersburg

The first destination in our exclusive *Around the World in 80 Days* holiday competition is three nights in St Petersburg where you will visit the Hermitage and see one of the most spectacular art exhibitions in the world, a prize for two people worth £1,730.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly London Heathrow — St Petersburg with British Airways. Transfer to Hotel Marco Polo Nevsky Palace, one of only two five-star hotels in the city, offering international standards of cuisine, service and comfort. Day 2 The Hermitage full day tour. Day 3 Free time. Day 4 Drive to the summer palace of Catherine the Great at Pushkin, which was created by Rasputin and is set in beautiful grounds. Drive to the Podvorie restaurant for lunch. Return flight to London.

On display at the Hermitage Museum for the first time in 50 years are more than 70 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings by artists such as Cezanne, Gauguin, Monet, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Van Gogh and Pissarro.

The Times, in association with Cox & Kings, offers you the chance to take a friend to see these magnificent works: visit the home of Catherine the Great at Pushkin, have traditional Russian food for lunch at a wooden dacha nearby and tour St Petersburg, an historically important city.

Readers of *The Times* can also take advantage of an exclusive discount of 10 per cent off the brochure price of a three-night stay in the former Russian capital making it only £778 per person. The "missing" Impressionists



and concert halls, an abundance of other art, literary and science museums as well as a full calendar of ballet and opera to enjoy.

These are beautiful places to visit in the city which was once home of the tsars. St Isaac's Cathedral contains some of the finest religious paintings, mosaics and sculptures and its observation tower provides a bird's-eye view of the river Neva. The Summer Palace of Peter the Great and the Museum of the Defence of Leningrad contain fascinating insights into its history.

DEPARTURE DATES
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December 12, 1995
January 10, 1996
February 7, 1996
March 7, 1996

Prices from £778, down from £865, a saving of £87. Single supplement: £230. Price includes return flights, transfers by private coach, three nights' five-star accommodation at the Marco Polo Nevsky Palace, sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary, breakfast plus one lunch. If you want to book a holiday of over 10 days, call the hotline or call the brochure hotline on 01369 70 77 11. Please allow 14 days for delivery of your brochure.

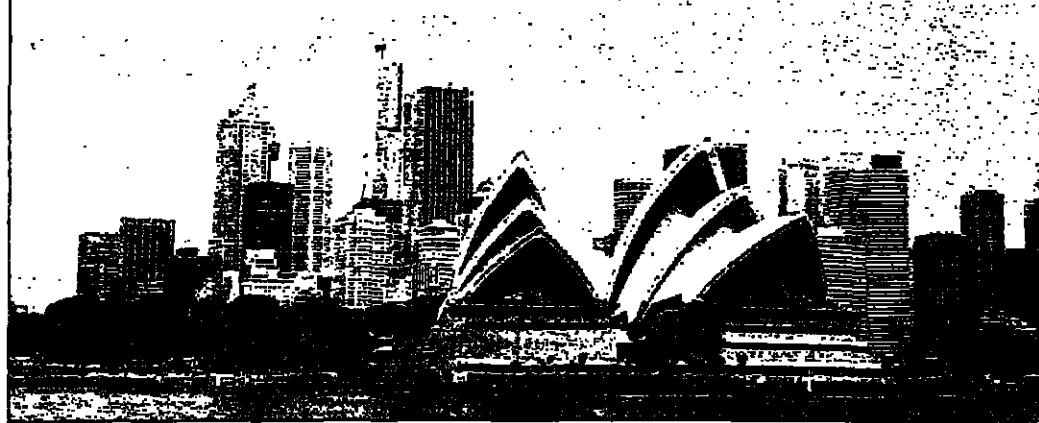
HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a trip for two to St Petersburg, phone in your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0894 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What was St Petersburg called during the Communist regime?
2. Name two of the artists whose works were "discovered" in the Hermitage.

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Foreign banks in London are not complying with law

Clean-up needed for launderers

Representative offices are an open door for dirty money, says Nigel Morris-Cotterill

Foreign banks in London are failing to comply with UK laws designed to combat money laundering, leading to London being seen as a place where criminals can easily hide their proceeds of crime.

The Money Laundering Regulations 1993 were brought into effect in April 1994. They require all businesses affected by the Financial Services Act 1986 (and others) to take steps to combat money laundering. Failure to comply with the four measures set out in the regulations can bring penalties of up to two years in jail for the officers of the business, even though the business is not in fact used by money launderers.

Under the measures, the business must set up an internal system for employees to report their suspicions: there must be systems for identifying new customers; there must be one person to accept reports and consider the appropriate action; and there must be a system of recording and storing information about persons and transactions.

However, evidence is emerging that small branches and representative offices of many overseas banks are not training their staff, have not appointed a reporting officer and have no system for identifying new customers. The justification given by representative offices is that they are regulated by their home jurisdiction and not UK banking regulators. In the case of small branches, it appears that the cost of training and of creating the systems, especially where there are few resident staff, is regarded as too high.

A small Japanese bank said that it had only two people in



Allegations of money laundering were made against the Bank of Credit and Commerce International after it collapsed in 1991

London and did not need to comply with the UK law. It later said that some training had been provided but no reporting officer had been appointed. A subsidiary of a larger Japanese bank said it had no one with responsibility for money laundering reporting. Yet its UK head office had a compliance department. A Korean bank said it was a representative office and did not need to comply until it became a branch in two years' time.

An overseas bank can open a representative office merely

by notifying the Bank of England that it has done so. It does not need a banking licence and is largely unregulated by the UK banking system.

However, the purpose of a representative office is to operate, to an extent, some front functions of the principal office of the bank it represents. It is therefore at least arguable that the representative offices undertake activities regulated by the 1993 regulations, including, for example, acceptance of deposits (some take them and forward them to their head

office via a UK clearer). As a result, they appear to be subject to the UK money laundering regulations.

It must be so, otherwise the representative office of an overseas bank is an open door into the banking system for dirty money: funds left with the representative office are passed over the counter of the UK clearer with which the representative office operates its current account. The money, when passed to the clearer, is the money of the bank which the representative office represents. Therefore,

the UK clearer does not have to identify the source of the funds, in any but the most extreme cases.

If the representative offices do not comply with the UK money laundering regulations, a person in London can make a payment to the account of a customer of the representative office's principal and funds can be accepted without any checks as to the source of the funds. Cross-border transactions are used by money launderers to confuse investigators who have legal problems in tracing

funds in foreign jurisdictions. As one of the simplest methods of laundering money is the creation of a fictitious invoice which is then paid overseas, the failure of representative offices to comply with UK laws is an obvious hole in the international effort to control money laundering.

Branch offices are subject to the UK regulations because they are able to perform banking services such as foreign exchange.

Banks which do not comply place their staff at risk of prosecution. The regulations are a small part of a large body of law. Everyone engaged in employment, business, trade or profession has a duty to make reports to the police of information that comes into their hands and leads to a suspicion of involvement in laundering the proceeds of certain crimes, especially drugs trafficking and terrorism. Both of these crimes are very widely defined and include the passing of small quantities of drugs, for example.

Recent finds of large quantities of drugs have shown that considerable amounts of money is passed across borders to pay for supplies. In some cases, this money is transported by hand, in others, the money is spent in the UK to acquire a readily transportable asset such as a car, a piece of jewellery or a work of art. Often these "tokens" are stolen goods. In many cases, however, it is simply placed in the banking system where it is moved, camouflaged by the vast sums of money passing through the London markets, into a less-regulated banking system where it can be used in furtherance of other crime or taken as profit.

Money laundering is considered most likely to be detected at the stage where it is introduced into the banking system. The lack of inadequacy of controls adopted by overseas banks makes it simpler to launder money in London and does nothing to reduce London's reputation as an easy place to launder dirty money.

Fate of yields rests in hands of Chancellor

Micro-economic trends seem more reassuring for gilts than the macro-economic framework.

Fourteen years of inflation fighting are yielding results. The most telling evidence comes from signs that companies are moving away from cost-based pricing to price-based costing. The competitive environment imposed as much by global trends as local factors is forcing companies to see what prices the market will bear and to adjust their production schedules accordingly. Those countries such as the UK with a flexible labour market have been able to retain a competitive position.

The realisation that life has changed may be as much a result of global competitive forces as the restrictive monetary policy. But this does not matter. The results are being delivered in a low underlying inflation rate.

Moreover, some of the inflation we have largely represents the profit share of GDP rising rather than costs being passed on and some of the rest may represent the quality premium consumers are prepared to pay for something better.

A second micro-economic factor is the growing bias of life and pension funds to allocating cash to the gilt-edged market. Recent figures suggest that nearly 60 per cent of cash has been so allocated compared with a net retreat from the market earlier in this decade. This may not just represent a reaction to the Goode report recommendations. An ageing population normally requires a different risk tolerance level. A third factor relates to technical changes in the market. The introduction of repos and strippable gilts provides a

new dimension to the market, adding to its liquidity.

These positive micro-economic developments have helped to reduce long-bond yields this year from around 8 1/2 per cent at the beginning of the year to under 8 per cent by June. Subsequently, however, the market has gone sideways. These positive micro-developments have been swamped by a macro-economic framework in which the UK does not appear very special.

A cyclical deterioration in the budget deficit has proved a concern, but a greater issue is that the structural budget deficit estimated by the OECD at around 3 per cent of GDP this year is little different from the average for the G7. If there is no huge tax giveaway in the Budget, however, and the Chancellor can stick to his spending plans, this structural deficit could make a significant shift down in 1996.

This could go a long way to closing the gap between UK yields and those in Germany and would help to lower the real yield basis which could support both equity and bond markets. However, the betting must be that politics necessitates large tax cuts. If this is right the yield spread could widen.

A neutral stance in the Budget seems most unlikely, but would provide the best news for long-term interest rates. How much drift there is away from this stance is crucial in determining the trend of long yields. A rough rule of thumb would be tax cuts greater than £3 billion to £4 billion are probably not consistent with long bond yields being able to maintain their current levels.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Barclays de Zootie Wedd

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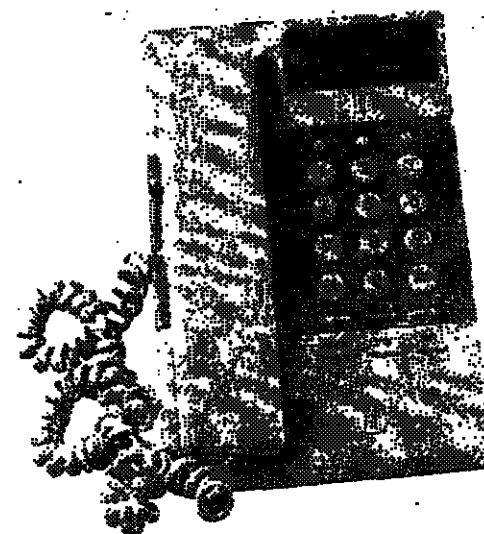
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bound to present themselves. The cable industry is on the verge of consolidating in the interests of economies of scale. Analysts believe that takeovers and mergers will eventually reduce the 20 cable companies to five or six big players. The process has already begun. TeleWest, the largest operator, recently purchased SBC CableComm for £679 million.

KPN is well aware of the cable companies' less-than-promising start in Britain. But it is a long-term believer in the business because the regulatory regime here is the most liberal in the world.

By Ross TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OPTARE, the Leeds bus maker, will this week unveil a single-decker conceived to recapture the world market lead.

Encouraged by the success of its smaller MetroRider—which uses an integral body and chassis, Optare has used the concept to develop the Excel model capable of carrying up to 48 passengers.

Russell Richardson, Optare's managing director, hopes to sell the Excel in Britain, continental Europe and the Australising countries of Pacific Asia.

Optare has received a flood of enquiries from Asia after signing a five-year deal to supply 1,200 MetroRider machines for assembly in Malaysia. This year the company will ship 250 vehicles to Malaysia. With the 350 built for sale in Britain, this is expected

priate for a company to turn to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) when it wanted to preserve a business relationship or reputation; keep the matter private; or is worried about the costs, stress or risks of litigation.

It is not suitable when the other parties have no interest in settlement, or if a company wants the case to be heard in public; to set a legal precedent; or when it needs an injunction quickly to preserve rights.

"It is best to see ADR as a supplementary, 'without prejudice' negotiation," he said.

"Litigation and ADR are not mutually exclusive.

"There is a misconception that the process involves meeting the other party half-way. In fact, it gives you the chance to convince them you are right, and the contract signed at the end is legally binding."

In disputes involving sums of less than £50,000, CEDR has a fixed-fee scheme with charges beginning at £350 per party for day of mediation. Over that amount, charges are likely to be between £500 and £1,500 per day.

TROPE ON HOME FRONT

NATWEST has become the latest economic pundit to try to predict house price movements. David Kern, NatWest Group's chief economist, thinks house prices could rise modestly over the next 18 months, although there will be significant differences between regions. NatWest's view contradicts recent reports that house prices will continue to fall for many years. Mr Kern estimates that house prices over the next five years will rise on average by about 4.1 per

[illegible]

PRESTON NORTH END ran out on to the Alternative Investment Market pitch last week with a £3.6 million listing, one of three flotations on the smaller companies exchange. Together with SCS Satellite Communications and Metlek, a computer systems company, £8.6 million was raised on the market, which now has a total capitalisation of £4.8 billion.

Ten other companies moved on to the market last week from the now defunct £4.2 trading facility on the stock exchange. The total took 25 to breakeven, these figures this week, having reached 97 on Friday.

Julian Palfreyman, a dealer at Winterford Securities, said that private client stockbrokers — which account for the

bulk of activity on AIM — are showing an increasing desire to trade. "There is much more interest to deal each week as the number of companies grows. This week the volume reached a record level following the pattern of the previous weeks."

Firecast was one of the week's best performers, improving 71 per cent to 65p since Monday after an acquisition of a computer company dealing with the Internet, fuelled the fever over high-tech stocks. As Centra, the restaurant chain, continued to expand, the company which greeted its arrival on AIM and it more than doubled its mid-price opening of 35p to close at 75p.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

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UK and France set to join forces in stainless steel

By COLIN NARBOROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL and the recently privatised Usinor Sacilor, France, Europe's biggest steelmaker, are considering a merger between their stainless steel businesses that would create a powerful new force in the industry in Europe, according to senior industry sources.

The tie-up would bring together two highly profitable stainless steel makers at a time of boom conditions in the

sector. Last year, Avesta Sheffield, British Steel's stainless steel subsidiary in Stockholm but with production facilities in both Sweden and Britain, showed a pre-tax profit of 1.56 billion kronor (£142 million) on sales of 16.8 billion kronor (£1.5 billion). Its workforce was nearly 8,000.

Usinor Sacilor's stainless steel subsidiary Ugine, which employed almost 12,000 at the end of last year, made a pre-tax profit of Fr 1.05 billion on a turnover of Fr 15.9 billion.

Talk of an Avesta-Ugine merger surfaced after British Steel last week paid £12 million to raise its stake in Avesta Sheffield to 51 per cent, even though it already had effective control of the company.

The move came shortly after Usinor Sacilor launched an offer, which closes tomorrow, for the 41.1 per cent of Ugine it does not already own.

Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive of British Steel, said at a steelmakers' conference in Rio de Janeiro last week that he was on close terms with Francis Mer, chairman of Usinor Sacilor.

But he said there were no merger plans and that the moves by British Steel and Usinor Sacilor to gain firmer control of their stainless steel businesses "just happen to coincide".

At the weekend, however, British Steel refused to com-

ment on reports of a possible tie-up, describing them as speculative and adding that "no due diligence is in progress at the moment".

But industry sources said the merger would be part of a Europe-wide restructuring that is likely to take place as the industry prepares for the next cyclical downturn.

British Steel firmly denied a report in the Swedish financial press last week that Mr Moffat had a few weeks ago turned down a 7.5 billion kronor (£680 million) offer for British Steel's then 49.9 per cent of Avesta Sheffield. The price was at a 25 per cent premium to the market.

The prospects for stainless steel remain highly favourable, according to Jyrki Jussela, chief executive of Outokumpu, the Finnish metals group that has the world's most cost-effective stainless steel production. He told City analysts on Friday that the average price of stainless in Germany, Europe's key market, was 45 per cent higher in the first eight months of this year compared with last year.

"Uncertainty about the future market clearly increased this autumn," he said, "but strong growth in consumption is however, expected to continue."

For next year, he forecast lower profit margins but said they would "still be at an attractive level".

Item gives warning on tax cuts

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, faces a large overshoot of his borrowing target and the anger of the financial markets if he cuts taxes in next month's Budget, according to the Ernst & Young Item club (Janet Bush writes).

Weakening economic growth means that the Government's target for the public sector borrowing requirement is beyond reach.

Item, the economics group that uses the Treasury's economic model, said that tax cuts of £4 billion — equivalent to 2p off the basic rate of income tax — would mean the public sector borrowing requirement would rise in the next fiscal year unless other savings are found.

Scholl attack

Rebel shareholders trying to gain seats on the board of Scholl, the healthcare company, have attacked as "a disgraceful use of shareholders' funds" news that the board has hired Kroll Associates, the financial investigation firm, to investigate their backgrounds. Julian Treger, Bryan Myerson and Claudia Perkins are trying to remove the non-executives and take their seats.

Next launch

The Next Group, the high street retailer, has launched a customer service management subsidiary. Ventura claims to be pioneering in Britain what is already a substantial industry in the US. The new business has been created from Club 24, an existing Next subsidiary.

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Labour's "deal" with British Telecom to build a national broadband network was scarcely a coup. It has been on offer for years. But ministers, far from embracing a £10 billion private infrastructure investment, effectively stopped BT making it. They preferred to block market forces to encourage local cabling by new competitors. Instead of being half-way to a national information superhighway, therefore, BT is stuck in Carey Street, symbolic home of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. There it is disputing its regulator's power to direct BT customers to subsidise rival firms. Hardly a Tory vote-winner.

That is why the Blair-BT pact will embarrass Tories in Blackpool this week. As floor-crosser Alan Howarth noticed, the party of ideology is spouting industrial common-sense. The no-nonsense party has hobbled itself with dogma.

Sadly, BT is typical. The gas mess is a greater triumph of theory over businesslike common-sense. Not long ago, privatisation looked a great success. As usual, prices were down, service was the best ever and profits were strong. Millions of customers and shareholders seemed content. But ministers and regulators insisted this Tory success story was actually a failure. So theorists were unleashed to remake the market in a perfect new competitive form. Result: customers are angry over poor service, shareholders are angry over Government reneging

Tories need a new vision to cut dogma and taxes



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

on its social contract with them. Many poor consumers will pay more than they need, with the usual knock-on rise in welfare spending. Hardly a Tory vote-winner.

Theory dogged electricity from the start. Prices still fell, thanks to accelerated pit closures, funded by taxpayers. Things might still have worked, but ministers insisted that electricity bosses be subject, since April, to discipline by the mythical "market for corporate control". The third takeover went through on Friday at four times the 1990 issue price of £25 million, despite management offering shareholders a spare £50 million. City investors have broken the social contract, making Labour's utility levy look small beer.

Public fear of a new gas debacle made the Cabinet shelve a privatisation of the Post Office. Yet the Prime Minister recently cited sales of nuclear power and railways to show his Government had not run out of steam. Private rail initially needs more subsidy, higher taxes. Hardly a Tory vote-winner.

To focus on privatisation is now-days to accept Labour's agenda. Conservatives need to offer a vision of the wider economy for a fifth

term, and to use the power of office to win back votes. Here too, however, ideological correctness too often spoils a good story.

The decisive weapon against inflation was not a monetary theory but, as in the early 1980s, a long, deep recession. Just as manufacturing was permanently damaged by the first recession, so housing and construction were by the second. They now hold us back. It is not just those still stuck with negative equity. Heavy losses by lenders and job insecurity will oblige future would-be homeowners to save much bigger deposits and borrow less. The Budget offers little scope for largess but

could help them and the economy.

□ The Chancellor could announce a new National Savings Housing Bond, paying 8 per cent guaranteed for ten years. For three years, payments of up to £5,000 a year would be tax deductible, like a pension contribution, but the bond could never be cashed, only used to reduce a mortgage or make a down payment to a mortgage lender.

□ If Tories pre-empted Labour by taxing those electricity windfalls, they could bring forward £2 billion a year of capital projects now snarled up in the Private Finance Initiative. These could be sold to the private sector later. Meanwhile, jobs would be created where they are scarce.

Most of all, Conservatives need to develop a second-stage economic strategy that builds on the Thatcher revolution and resolves its central flaw. When ministers review ballooning social security bills, they must twig that it is impractical to drive towards totally transparent, free and flexible markets, and then rely on a civilised social security system to look after losers. Means-tested benefits are mushrooming all about. Only the cost of the universal state pension, target of the famous

"demographic time bomb" theory, is actually falling relative to output.

Neither taxpayers nor the economy can afford periodic bouts of unemployment for all that will keep dole queues at about two million. Steady breadwinner jobs are giving way to low-paid casual or part-time ones that need public subsidy. Market rents push millions into benefits. Abolition of uniform prices undoes private subsidies from rich to poor. Switching taxes to goods may raise incentives but raises benefit spending more.

At last month's Chequers strategy pow-wow, much of the emphasis appears to have been on cutting state benefits and encouraging private provision. Voters can see that is the choice of despair. The next crusade must be to help people who want to provide for themselves to achieve the dignity of not needing means-tested benefits.

The tax system should give companies incentives to hold on to workers and expand, not, as now, incentives to sack people or not employ them in the first place. Tories should not raise tax incentives and taxpayer subsidies for low pay. They should give tax breaks to poorer families, better marriage allowances for single earner families, and for those who live with elderly parents. Greater reliance on the social security system of the family, safer jobs, better pay and lower tax for low-income breadwinners are keys to cutting public spending and taxes. They would also be Tory vote-winners.

Ross Tieman assesses the challenges facing British Aerospace

Life on a wing and a prayer

An orange and white BAe 146 whistles along the runway outside Dick Evans's office window and lifts off towards a milky blanket of high cloud.

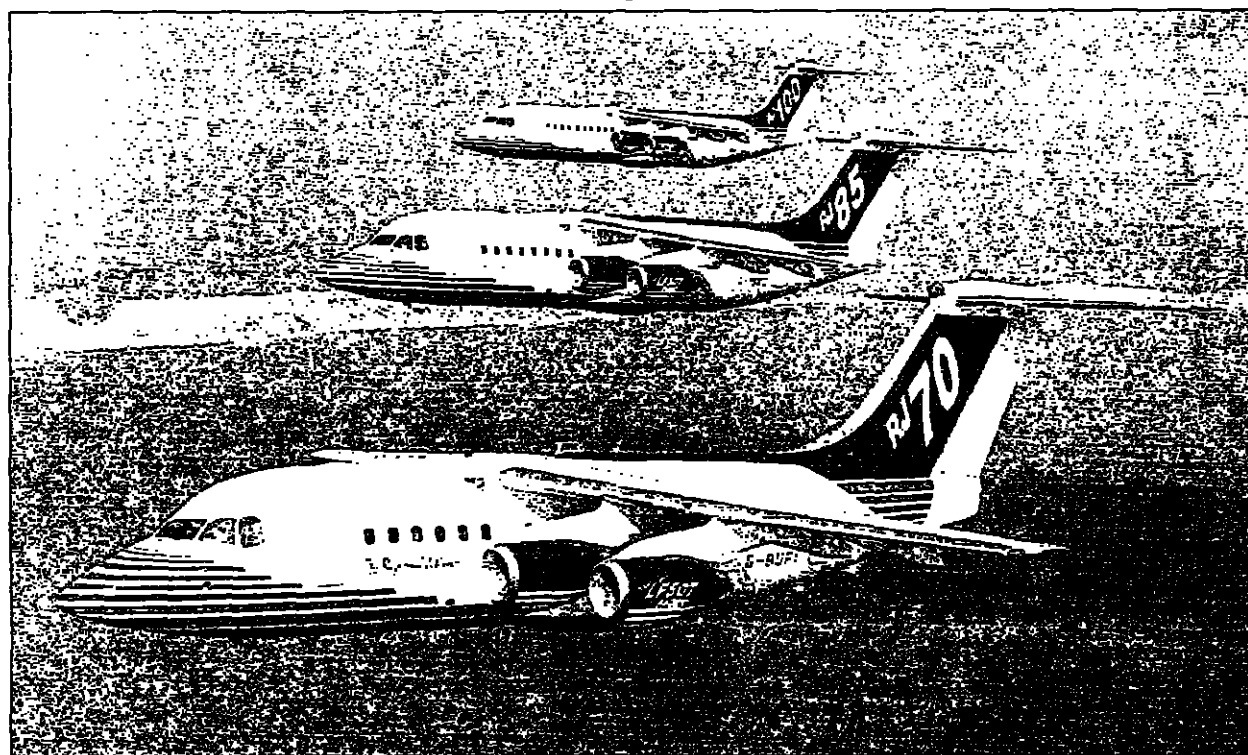
Evans, his back to the window, is absorbed in his exposition. "Next year is going to be quite a critical year for us," the British Aerospace chief executive is saying.

From the head of a company whose shares have almost doubled this year in expectation that the remarkable profits recovery now under way will continue, such words sound a jarring note.

But like its increasingly successful regional jet, BAe has only so much headroom before its future course becomes obscured.

Every core area of BAe's business is at the mercy of vital decisions due in 1996: from Airbus, via Eurofighter, to BAe's regional aircraft and perhaps its planned joint ventures in missiles and munitions. In addition, the company will learn whether it has won the £2 billion contract to replace 25 maritime patrol aircraft operated by the Royal Air Force, and whether Europe will come together with full British participation, to develop a new high-capacity military transport plane.

If the tide of these decisions swings against BAe, the world's third-largest defence



The future course of BAe, whose regional jets have been a success story, is at the mercy of vital decisions due next year

company will be condemned to slow decline as government orders dry up. Evans knows he has a daunting task ahead, but he can take comfort from the knowledge that he has already convinced the toughest audience of all, his City investors, that BAe has transformed its prospects through

one of the most radical industrial overhauls achieved in Britain.

Four years ago, BAe stood on the brink of insolvency. Big businesses, such as Rover cars, were sold, and a £1 billion write-off swallowed one regional aircraft. Some 56,000 lost their jobs. Slammed down to a core of military jets, missiles, munitions and civil aircraft, BAe has transformed the way it works to become probably the lowest-cost aircraft-builder in the world.

"The company has gone through a hell of a change," says Evans. "For the first time while I have been in this job, we have got to a point where we genuinely have created a stable platform for the business." But in the cut-throat, post-Cold War climate of global overcapacity in both military and civil aircraft, cost-effective production and a strong balance sheet are merely the prerequisites for survival.

The task now facing Evans and his co-pilot Richard Laphorne, finance director, is to secure a work-flow into the company's remaining factories that will last until the year 2030 and beyond. That is not an easy task. Product life cycles stretch to 30, 40 or even

250 aircraft and take a one-third share of the £32 billion programme, with a further 250 planes and the remainder of the work split between Italy and Spain. Now the Germans want just 140 aircraft, but refuse to accept a proportional reduction in their workload.

The British Government is pushing for BAe to take management control, in exchange for more German manufacturing. Not a solution that appeals to Daimler.

The next problem is Airbus Industrie. Boeing has streaked ahead in the small passenger jet market this year by pledging to cut the costs of building its 737 series by 10 per cent a year for the next four years.

"What we have got to do," says Evans, "is take 15 per cent off a year over a similar period of time." This, he insists, can and will be done. BAe's partners in the European airliner consortium: Daimler, Aerospatiale, and Casa of Spain, and their Governments, will not give up after investing billions of pounds to create the number two jet builder in the world, after Boeing. But to stay competitive, Airbus will have to be restructured — quickly — from a collaborative partnership into a shareholder-owned company.

As far as regional aircraft are concerned, Europe has far too many manufacturers, all losing money or struggling to break even. BAe, Aerospatiale and Alenia of Italy have agreed to combine marketing of small jets and turboprops in a single business, AIR.

And then there are joint ventures. Britain and France, America's chief western rivals in arms exporting, need to combine industries to achieve the economies of scale enjoyed by American rivals.

Finally, BAe must continue to secure a junior role on the American programme to develop a replacement for the Harrier, which will be needed one day by the Royal Navy, and in the collaborative development of a strike aircraft to replace the Tornado bomber.

It is a daunting list. But, thanks to its near-death experience, BAe does seem to have learned how to control costs and focus on its customers. Now it needs the confidence to invest in a new generation of products, an orderly market and stable programmes.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last.

Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO KINETIC

Nothing is ever certain in an industry where one year can make or break you

One programme stands head and shoulders above the rest on BAe's shopping list: Eurofighter 2000. "We have to get the programme firmly launched in the production phase," says Evans.

No easy task, because of repeated delays by the German Parliament in approving funding. Originally, Germany and Britain were each to buy

the foundations on which BAe's long-term future is built. One programme stands head and shoulders above the rest on BAe's shopping list: Eurofighter 2000. "We have to get the programme firmly launched in the production phase," says Evans.

awed by the dexterity of its sales assistants.

Now with 32 stores throughout Australia, the group employs more than 10,000 staff and in the year to July 1995 pushed up profits 25 per cent to A\$100 million.

Wrapping up David Jones

FORMER Burton director Chris Tideman has not taken long to make his mark Down Under. One year after becoming chief executive of David Jones, Australia's prestige retailer, word is that he is planning to wrap the group's flagship Sydney store entirely in its trademark houndstooth paper to launch its A\$800 million (£385 million) stock market flotation later this year.

Often dubbed the Harrods of Australia, David Jones has marble floors, chandeliers and lifts operated manually by liveried attendants. Its wrapping skills are legendary, with customers often

pork pies and Guinness on tap and has been a big hit with visitors. To no one's surprise, Sir Gerry When, Vodafone's chief executive, felt at home in the Globe. He likes a pint and recently bought a London pub called the Hamster.

Globe technology

WHAT started as an old-fashioned idea has worked wonders for Vodafone at Telecom 95, the global telecommunications jamboree in Geneva. More than 1,000 companies have exhibited made of steel, chrome, glass, plush carpeting and neon lights. So what did Vodafone do? It built a classic pub. Called The Globe, it has a real thatch roof, a wooden bar,

was from AXA, automatically blurred out "cricket". The lingering doubt is that he was probably unaware the company is in insurance.

WHEN people talk about law firms cleaning up, they are usually referring to their fees. Today, however, Theodore Goddard will clean up in different style when it is declared the winner of the Corporation of London's City Law firm won top spot for its exhaustive range of recycling schemes. From sending redundant ring-binders to local schools to a daily donation of unopened perishable food to the Salvation Army.

Bowled over

HENRI DE CASTRIES, dashing executive vice-president of AXA, the French owner of Equity and Law, is now convinced his group's sponsorship of colourfully clad Sunday one-day cricket is getting the brand name across. On a shooting expedition to remotest Scotland he ran into a man who, on hearing that the Frenchman

Music for high noon

Composer of the Week. Radio 3, noon.

I learn with pleasure that as of today, *Composer of the Week* shifts from its traditional 9am slot to noon. What this relocation means is that I can now recommend *Composer of the Week* in the knowledge that you will have received your copy of *The Times* in time to decide whether or not to take my advice. The first composer to occupy the new slot is Grieg. Tchaikovsky apart, I can think of few composers whose works exercise so powerful a pull on middle-brow punsters. Radio 3 has taken on extra insurance to guarantee Grieg's pulling power. One of today's items is his Piano Concerto, always in the top ten of musical favourites.

Football Legends. Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm. News Talk. Radio 5, 10.05pm.

This is one of those nights — and they are plentiful — when Radio 5 hits both its targets, sport and news. *Football Legends* offers a profile of the footballer dubbed The Lion of Vienna, Nial Lofthouse, the Bolton Wanderers and England centre-forward. Now 70, and Bolton's president, he still holds the record of goals scored for Bolton — 255 in more than 500 league games. He became a lion by scoring the winning goal in the England-Austria clash in 1952. *News Talk* carries a London interview with General Colin Powell, who continues to tease about whether or not he and his wife Alma are mentally ordering new carpets for the White House. Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo 4.00am Early Breakfast Show 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham, and at 12.30-12.45am Newsday 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, and at 4.40 Judge Dredd and at 6.30 The Nightly M6 7.00 The Evening Session 8.00 Apache Indian, live from Manchester 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Clare Surridge, and at 12.15am The Net	All times in BST. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Europe Today 8.00 Newsday 8.15 An Instant in the Wind 8.30 Vintage Chart Show 9.00 News 9.10 Faith 9.15 Greenfield Collection 10.00 News in German 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 BBC English 11.45 An Instant in the Wind Noon Newsday 12.30pm Chart 1.00 News 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Musician's Musicians 2.00 Newsday 2.05 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 4.00 News in German 4.05 Sport 4.15 Concert Hall 5.00 News 5.15 World 5.30 News in German 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Business 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsday 7.30 News in German 7.35 News Summary 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Faith 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 Newsday 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsday 11.30 World 11.45 Sport 11.50 Newsday 12.00am Take Five 12.15 Ed Stewart 12.45 Newsday 1.00 Newsday 1.05 News 1.30 Folk 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.10 Press Review 2.15 Shanga 2.45 Health 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Inspiration 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 John Peel
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Parade for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durr 7.00 John Peel 7.30 Greg 7.30 Dances Band Days 8.00 Celebration Concert 21 years of the Radio 2 National Big Band Competition 9.00 Jack Parnell 10.00 Scottish Music Hall 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Jazz Notes 1.00 Sue McGarry 3.00 Alan Lester	4.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Smons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concert: Howells (Concerto for strings) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Sports: Brahms Violin Sonata in F minor 7.00 A to Z 8.00 Evening Concert: Music by Berlioz, Lully, Pärt, Borodin, Shostakovich 10.00 Michael Macphail 12.00 Tim Lincecum
RADIO 5 LIVE	VIRGIN 1215
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, and at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, and at 10.35 Euronews; 11.05 Going Bananas 12.00 Midday with Neil 2.05 Rascals on Five 4.00 Nationwide, and at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, and at 7.20 sport 7.35 Football Legends: See Choice 8.00 The Monday Mail: Rugby League World Cup 10.05 News Talk. See Choice 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Pure State of Mind 2.05 Up All Night	6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul O'Connell 11.00-11.30 2.00-6.00am Robin Jarvis
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
6.00am Sandy Wan 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rieburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 8.00 Moe Dee 10.00 James White 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins	6.00 On Air, Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne Enigma Variations), Bach, arch Wood (Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565); 7.05 Delius (Autumn, North Country Sketches); Bartok (Rhapsody No 1 for violin and orchestra); 8.05 Monteverdi (Laudate Pueri, Mozart (String Quintet in C, K515) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Five hundred years of music, beginning with Dukes (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Haydn (Piano Sonata in E flat, Grieg (Haugen March, Sibelius (Joukskaari), Liszt (Mazepa) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Grieg (Overture, Russian and Lullaby), Arnold (Arist of the Week Alfreda Hodgson, mezzo. Barber (Hamlet Songs); 10.25 Chausson (Poème for violin and orchestra); Anon (Intrada); Schmitt (Ein guter neuer Dantzig); Pärt (Ungeheures); Anon (Basso Impassabile) Schostakovich (Variations on "Ei, du ferner Rater"; Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); 11.15 Grieg (Violin Sonata in D minor); Anon (Ben Cam'ao, Canigos de Santa Maria); Granger (The Power of Rome) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Edward Grieg. See Choice 12.55-6.00pm The Afternoon on air. 1.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert live from St John's Smith Square with the Kiev Chamber Choir and Risto Gedeby. Taverner (Sylvia) and music by Grechaninov, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky
RADIO 4	
6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today's programme including half-hourly News 6.55 7.35 weather 7.45 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 As It Seemed To Me. John Cole's memoirs (1/5) 8.55 Weather News. Start the Week. Melvin Bragg talks to Andrew Sullivan about Virtually Normal, his new book on homosexuality, Catholicism and the military. 10.00 Holy Land Pilgrimage Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 The Sower's tale (LW only) 10.00 News; Dear Diary (FM only); Annette Klobak presents eyewitness accounts of key moments in recent European history (3/6) 10.30 Woman's Hour. Serial: the first part of Changes by Ann Afton 11.30 Money Box Live (0171) 580 4444 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Round Britain Quiz. Ireland in London, with Gordon Gough, Tony Quinlan, Irene Thomas, Eric Kim, Peter Stead and Jack Jones 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1/5) Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Wasted Years, Tom Wilkinson stars in John Harvey's novel (2/2) 4.00 News; Kaleidoscope Lynne Walker investigates CD-Roms 4.45 Short Story: Chopsticks. Lover A comic love story by Lesley Glaister 5.00 PM with Nigel Warren and Linda Lewis 5.50 Shipping	Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Sbc O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz: Barry Took is the chief writer with Timmy the columnist Alan Coren and Jonathan Meades; Andy Hamilton and Tony Hawks (1) 7.00 The Food Programme. Trenchpotter Derek Cooper goes online to interview 8.40 A London Symphony (No 2) 9.35 O Wall, O Sweet, O Lovely. Wall Builders talk about their craft 9.50 French Baroque Masters: The viola da gamba 10.45 Siding It with Mark Russell 11.00-12.30am Ensemble. Caroline Palmer, piano 1.00-2.00 Night School

RADIO 1	RADIO 3
6.00 On Air, Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne Enigma Variations), Bach, arch Wood (Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565); 7.05 Delius (Autumn, North Country Sketches); Bartok (Rhapsody No 1 for violin and orchestra); 8.05 Monteverdi (Laudate Pueri, Mozart (String Quintet in C, K515) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Five hundred years of music, beginning with Dukes (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Haydn (Piano Sonata in E flat, Grieg (Haugen March, Sibelius (Joukskaari), Liszt (Mazepa) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Grieg (Overture, Russian and Lullaby), Arnold (Arist of the Week Alfreda Hodgson, mezzo. Barber (Hamlet Songs); 10.25 Chausson (Poème for violin and orchestra); Anon (Intrada); Schmitt (Ein guter neuer Dantzig); Pärt (Ungeheures); Anon (Basso Impassabile) Schostakovich (Variations on "Ei, du ferner Rater"; Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); 11.15 Grieg (Violin Sonata in D minor); Anon (Ben Cam'ao, Canigos de Santa Maria); Granger (The Power of Rome) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Edward Grieg. See Choice 12.55-6.00pm The Afternoon on air. 1.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert live from St John's Smith Square with the Kiev Chamber Choir and Risto Gedeby. Taverner (Sylvia) and music by Grechaninov, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky	6.00 On Air, Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne Enigma Variations), Bach, arch Wood (Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565); 7.05 Delius (Autumn, North Country Sketches); Bartok (Rhapsody No 1 for violin and orchestra); 8.05 Monteverdi (Laudate Pueri, Mozart (String Quintet in C, K515) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Five hundred years of music, beginning with Dukes (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Haydn (Piano Sonata in E flat, Grieg (Haugen March, Sibelius (Joukskaari), Liszt (Mazepa) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Grieg (Overture, Russian and Lullaby), Arnold (Arist of the Week Alfreda Hodgson, mezzo. Barber (Hamlet Songs); 10.25 Chausson (Poème for violin and orchestra); Anon (Intrada); Schmitt (Ein guter neuer Dantzig); Pärt (Ungeheures); Anon (Basso Impassabile) Schostakovich (Variations on "Ei, du ferner Rater"; Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); 11.15 Grieg (Violin Sonata in D minor); Anon (Ben Cam'ao, Canigos de Santa Maria); Granger (The Power of Rome) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Edward Grieg. See Choice 12.55-6.00pm The Afternoon on air. 1.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert live from St John's Smith Square with the Kiev Chamber Choir and Risto Gedeby. Taverner (Sylvia) and music by Grechaninov, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky
RADIO 2	RADIO 4
FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Parade for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durr 7.00 John Peel 7.30 Greg 7.30 Dances Band Days 8.00 Celebration Concert 21 years of the Radio 2 National Big Band Competition 9.00 Jack Parnell 10.00 Scottish Music Hall 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Jazz Notes 1.00 Sue McGarry 3.00 Alan Lester	Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Sbc O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz: Barry Took is the chief writer with Timmy the columnist Alan Coren and Jonathan Meades; Andy Hamilton and Tony Hawks (1) 7.00 The Food Programme. Trenchpotter Derek Cooper goes online to interview 8.40 A London Symphony (No 2) 9.35 O Wall, O Sweet, O Lovely. Wall Builders talk about their craft 9.50 French Baroque Masters: The viola da gamba 10.45 Siding It with Mark Russell 11.00-12.30am Ensemble. Caroline Palmer, piano 1.00-2.00 Night School

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wrapping up David Jones

FORMER Burton director Chris Tideman has not taken long to make his mark Down Under. One year after becoming chief executive of David Jones, Australia's prestige retailer, word is that he is planning to wrap the group's flagship Sydney store entirely in its trademark houndstooth paper to launch its A\$800 million (£385 million) stock market flotation later this year.

Often dubbed the Harrods of Australia, David Jones has marble floors, chandeliers and lifts operated manually by liveried attendants. Its wrapping skills are legendary, with customers often

awed by the dexterity of its sales assistants.

Now with 32 stores throughout Australia, the group employs more than 10,000 staff and in the year to July 1995 pushed up profits 25 per cent to A\$100 million.

Globe technology

WHAT started as an old-fashioned idea has worked wonders for Vodafone at Telecom 95, the global telecommunications jamboree in Geneva. More than 1,000 companies have exhibited made of steel, chrome, glass, plush carpeting and neon lights. So what did Vodafone do? It built a classic pub. Called The Globe, it has a real thatch roof, a wooden bar,

was from AXA, automatically blurred out "cricket". The lingering doubt is that he was probably unaware the company is in insurance.

WHEN people talk about law firms cleaning up, they are usually referring to their fees. Today, however, Theodore Goddard will clean up in different style when it is declared the winner of the Corporation of London's City Law firm won top spot for its exhaustive range of recycling schemes. From sending redundant ring-binders to local schools to a daily donation of unopened perishable food to the Salvation Army.

Bowled over

HENRI DE CASTRIES, dashing executive vice-president of AXA, the French owner of Equity and Law, is now convinced his group's sponsorship of colourfully clad Sunday one-day cricket is getting the brand name across. On a shooting expedition to remotest Scotland he ran into a man who, on hearing that the Frenchman

was from AXA, automatically blurred out "cricket". The lingering doubt is that he was probably unaware the company is in insurance.

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COLIN CAMPBELL

piece, and anyone who objects that this *Pride and Prejudice* is too funny is beyond help. The first sight of Lady Catherine de Bourgh holding court (Barbara Leigh-Hunt) was a breathtaking composition: tiny seated figures dominated by a vast gloomy painting against which all life must struggle in vain. Leigh-Hunt herself, with Mad Hatter profile and net-curtain nurban, was a glory.

Rory Bremner can't be expected to deliver a show every week of the year, but his return to Channel 4 in *Rory Bremner - Who Else?* is a great relief. He is satire's true son, and luckily his Tony Blair is shaming us, too. *For memories of*

Lynne
Truss

Rory Bremner — Who Else? is a great relief. He is satire's true son, and luckily his Tony Blair is shaping up too. Fond memories of

his John Major conference speech ("They said it couldn't be done. It wasn't") were matched on Saturday. "You ask me what the minimum wage will be," simpered Blair, his eyes like buttons, round and mad. "And I'll tell you. Is that good enough for you?"

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff (tr) (6951902)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (20644)
9.00 Sabotage (tr) (5149915)
9.30 Schools: Geography (62782657) **9.45 Book Box** (6256422) **10.00 Sage Tapes: Science** (2162009)
10.15 Learn Sign Language (6039002) **10.20 Play and People** (2196825) **10.40 The English Programme** (8501441) **11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica** (2198506) **11.15 The Max** (3981557)
11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3594022) **11.45 Junior Technology** (3599557)
12.00 Profiles of Nature: Pelicans (tr) (28151)
12.30pm Sesame Street (37422) **1.30 Gundrop** followed by: **her the Engine, The Magic Roundabout and Roobarb** (91116235)
1.50 Pete Smith Specialities (tr) **Home Maid and Foin Foot** (91110151)
2.15 FILM: Submarine Patrol (1938, b/w) Second World War adventure, with a comic ace Preston Foster plays a demoted naval officer in charge of a runaway submarine chaser. Directed by John Ford (Teletext) (497489)
3.55 Garden Doctors (tr) (Teletext) (s) (6333070)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (159)
5.00 The Golden Girls (tr) (Teletext) (s) (7248)
6.00 Roseanne (Teletext) (s) (444)
6.30 Hangin' With Mr Cooper American campus comedy (Teletext) (s) (644)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (508002)
7.55 The Slot Viewers' video soapbox (520118)
8.00 One For the Road. The last of the six-part spoof on travel and video-diy shows. Simon (Alan Davies) decides to relax at a Norwegian health resort. Unfortunately it is run by a money-mad American and a Norwegian instructor who models himself on General Patton. (Teletext) (s) (7655)
8.30 Baby It's You The second of the six-part Emmy-awarded series following the transformation of a baby to a child. (tr) (Teletext) (s) (9460)

A day in the life of Paul, 5 (9.00pm)
9.00 [SHOW] Cutting Edge: Fighting for Breath (Teletext) (3996)
10.00 Homicide — Life on the Street. Baltimore police drama series. After a series of stakeouts, Pemberton arrests the prime suspect in the shootings of Felton Howard and Bolander, but the man is convicted of another crime. (Teletext) (s) (5137002)
11.05 The American Football Bill Munchie. Gary Inelci introduces highlights of Green Bay Packers v Dallas Cowboys and New York Jets vs Buffalo Bills (s) (15422)
12.20am Trans World Sport (tr) (9660132)
2.00 Evening Shade (tr) (s) (2449558)
1.55 FILM: Lancer Sp. (1937, b/w) starring George Sanders in his first lead role. Dolores Del Rio and Peter Lorre. A First World War British naval officer assumes the identity of his German doppelgänger and goes to Berlin to steal the German high command's war plans. Directed by Gregory Ratoff (5568565). Ends at 3.15
4.00-6.30 Schools: Technology for Today (51590)

12:00am *Family* (140267) 4.30
 1. 6.00 *Love, Honor & Obey*
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Clarke sees scope for income tax cuts in Budget

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday gave his strongest hint to date that a cut in the standard rate of income tax would be announced in next month's Budget.

Speaking in Washington at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund, the Chancellor rejected the view expressed last week by IMF staff that Britain was in danger of "slippage" in its efforts to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR).

Mr Clarke highlighted what he saw as the favourable economic prospects in Britain and most of the rest of the world. Although the Chancellor conceded that recent PSBR figures had been disappointing because of shortfalls in government revenues caused by the slowdown in the economy, he said that tax cuts

should be achievable provided he could rein in the Cabinet's plans on public spending.

He also indicated that his top priority in using any available fiscal leeway would be to cut the marginal rate of income tax, in accordance with the Tories' longstanding pledge to reduce the standard rate towards 20p in the pound.

His comments indicated that other concessions demanded by Tory backbenchers, such as a restoration in the level of personal and marriage allowances, or help to the housing market, were very unlikely in the Budget.

"We will return to our agenda of cutting marginal rates of tax as and when the opportunity affords," said Mr Clarke. "I have always taken the view that there will be room for tax cuts only if we have control of public spend-

ing but we are well on course for that in the medium term."

Mr Clarke said, however, that no decisions had yet been taken on the shape of the Budget and Treasury officials stressed that tax cuts were by no means a foregone conclusion. Everything depended on the outcome of the public spending round, which will enter its most important stage next week, after the Tory party conference, when the Cabinet's EDK committee starts to arbitrate between the individual government departments' spending bids.

Mr Clarke's confident comments echoed an optimistic assessment of the world economy and international financial markets by the Group of Seven finance ministers, who met in Washington on Saturday. The G7 meeting, which was said to be one of the most relaxed and consensual in recent memory, apparently had no serious concerns about economic prospects in America or Europe.

On currency markets, the finance ministers and central bankers seemed to take the view that enough had been done to achieve an "orderly reversal" in the dollar's decline. Although many currency dealers were concerned that the G7 might mount another concerted effort to boost the dollar or help the beleaguered French franc, there was no indication that any such action was planned.

The G7 communiqué said: "The G7 welcomed the orderly reversal in the movements of the major currencies that began following their April meeting. They would welcome a continuation of these trends consistent with underlying economic fundamentals. They reaffirmed their commitment to reduce imbalances and to co-operate closely in exchange markets."

Most of the ministers and officials took pains to avoid any further comment on the sensitive currency issue.

The G7 called on the IMF and the World Bank to urgently study what financial help Bosnia might need once a comprehensive peace is achieved.

Rich reward at Coal Investments



Malcolm Edwards, right, Coal Investments' chairman, at Britain's thickest coal seam, 17 feet wide, which the company is opening at Keresley, Coventry. The seam requires Britain's highest hydraulic roof struts and biggest coal shearer. CI, which took over some British Coal assets, hopes to build up to annual output of 2 million tonnes.

Lloyds coy over talk of £3bn takeover in financial sector

BY ROBERT MILLER

LLOYDS BANK, Britain's fourth largest high street clearer, has refused to deny speculation that it is within a couple of weeks of announcing a £3 billion takeover deal. Likely targets could include other banks, building societies or insurers.

It is understood that Lloyds, advised by ING Barings, its merchant bank, has prepared merger documents between two financial services groups, codenamed Paradise and Leeds, to create a financial services combine worth £12 billion. Lloyds generally tags top secret projects with a codename. Its recent cam-

paign to introduce more flexible opening hours in some of its 1,800 branches, was in its early stages, codenamed the Martini plan. This was based on the drinks advertising slogan "Anywhere, anytime, anyplace".

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, who is to remain in his post until the end of next year, has made no secret of the fact that Lloyds is still interested in further acquisitions to add to its recent £1.8 billion cash takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. Lloyds also looked at the books of National & Provincial before the

building society was bought by Abbey National. Lloyds has also in the past made failed bids for Standard Chartered and Midland.

Any deal involving a building society would be through C&G, with the necessary financial backing provided by Lloyds. The societies that fit the £3 billion description are Nationwide, Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich.

A Woolwich spokesman said: "We have had no approach from Lloyds Bank either formally or informally. We have made no secret of the fact that we are considering a number of options and conver-

sion to plc status is one of them. The board has made no decision as yet."

Nationwide, which also held early discussions with N&P, said: "We have not received an approach from Lloyds and we have no plans to merge or convert."

If the possible target is a life office, the deal will be done through Lloyds Abbey Life.

An early indication of how serious the secret Lloyds deal is could come in the next few days. If stock market speculation continues to mount, the bank may be forced to make a statement through the Stock Exchange.

Funds aim to sell UK shares

THE stock market could be in for a bumpy ride in coming months after a survey from Smith New Court, the broker, showed that for the first time in five years most fund managers are now sellers of UK shares. Only five months ago, a sizeable majority was looking to increase stakes. The gloomy view of the stock market now comes courtesy of a Gallup survey on behalf of SNC.

A balance of 3 per cent of managers were looking to reduce their exposure to UK equities. Only last May, a balance of 29 per cent were looking to raise exposure. In the latest survey, 89 institutions took part, handling funds totalling £14 billion. The engineering sector is currently most in favour, while the building and construction industries are the most unpopular. Managers are much more favourably inclined to the Japanese stock market.

Flotations fall

THE number of companies floating on the stock market has plummeted from the high levels last year in spite of buoyant market conditions, and a pick-up is unlikely before early next year. Even then, levels are unlikely to match those of 1993 and 1994. During the first nine months of the year, there were 61 flotations raising £1.8 billion compared with 177 new issues raising £7.7 billion for the corresponding period in 1994, according to KPMG, the accountancy firm.

BT denial

BT has denied a report that it has had talks with The News Corporation about creating an alliance to dominate the information superhighway. No talks were taking place, a spokesman for the telecoms company insisted. BT and News Corp, ultimate owner of The Times, are linked through MCI, the US telephone company that has 13 per cent of News Corp and in which BT has a 20 per cent stake.

North West set to lift Norweb bid

BY MARTIN WALLER

NORTH WEST WATER is this week expected to step up its battle for control of Norweb, the Manchester regional electricity company, by raising its offer to £1.8 billion.

Last week, the two Texan companies that are North West's rivals for Norweb's hand trumped an earlier offer for the company, raising their bid to £10.85p a share. Norweb shares ended the week at £10.83, but the City is convinced that North West's chairman, Sir Desmond Pither, will not walk away from the fray.

A higher offer would be the fourth for Norweb since the bidding war erupted in the electricity sector this summer and is likely to be pitched as a knockout blow. North West could therefore add another 50p to its bid,

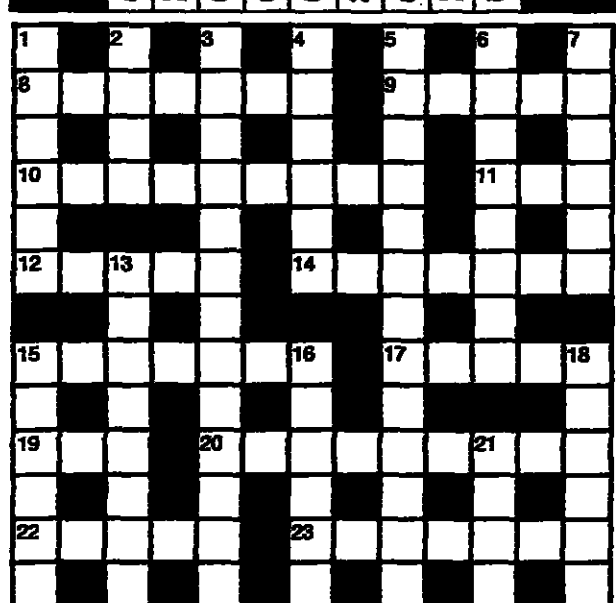
some analysts believe, which would again include a cash-and-shares package and would ensure the Texans do not decide to make a higher bid. Their last offer was not accepted by Norweb's board, which is clearly looking for a higher price from North West.

The latter's plans include a merger of the two companies' service businesses, which could provide cost savings of £40 million or more, the City believes, and this is driving the bid.

Such cost savings would not be available to the two Texan companies. But by forcing a higher offer out of North West, they could walk away and still avoid losing face in front of their American shareholders.

Contract race, page 37

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 595

- ACROSS
- Generous, tolerant (7)
 - Myth, hunter: a constellation (5)
 - First Bassetshire book (3,6)
 - Spring, resort (3)
 - Official language of India (5)
 - Crusty conservative (3,4)
 - Glorious mistake (7)
 - Area of expertise: piece of ground (5)
 - Animal; crash forcefully into (3)
 - Times anniversary feature (2,4,3)
- DOWN
- Criminal burning (5)
 - Unexceptional (7)
 - Ragged patch of colour (6)
 - Competent (4)
 - Moment of crisis (8,5)
 - Sailed through air (6)
 - Copied to deceive (13)
 - Warn off (8)
 - Being dealt with (2,4)
 - Close shave (4,4)
 - (US) cattle pen (6)
 - Form of ceremony (6)
 - John... poet laureate 1668 (6)
 - Wee too (inf whisky) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 594

- ACROSS: 1 Out of bounds 8 Trial 9 Set sail 10 Tour 11 Invading 13 Pre-war 14 Arture 17 Mutually 19 Pour 22 Corsica 23 Alias 24 Sancho Panza
- DOWN: 1 Octet 2 Tribute 3 File 4 On song 5 Not quite 6 Stain 7 Alcock 12 Vacation 13 Pumice 15 Utopian 16 Bleach 18 Torus 20 Tessa 21 Harp

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Vodafone aims to raise French stake

BY ERIC REGULY IN GENEVA

VODAFONE intends to double its stake in SFR, France's second largest mobile-phone company, and is expected to announce by December whether it is taking full control of Talkland in Britain.

Vodafone, Britain's largest mobile-phone company, bought 10 per cent of SFR two years ago for about £110 million and wants to exercise its option next year to acquire another 10 per cent.

SFR has 140,000 subscribers and is the main rival to France Telecom's mobile-phone business. Vodafone wants a bigger stake because it believes that mobile-phone penetration in France - less than 20 per cent of Britain's levels - is set to grow sharply.

Buying more of SFR is part of Vodafone's new strategy of taking a larger stake in its foreign investments. In the past, it was more concerned with bidding for as many foreign mobile-phone licences as possible but all the major licences have now gone.

Société Générale des Eaux, with 35 per cent, is SFR's biggest shareholder. It also owns two-thirds of Talkland, the third largest mobile-phone service provider. Vodafone owns the rest. The French company has told Vodafone that it wants to sell its equity in Talkland and has given Vodafone the right of first refusal.

City diary, page 38

ScottishPower pays £16m for Ionica rights

SCOTTISHPOWER, fresh from its £1.1 billion successful hostile takeover of Manweb, is paying £16 million to Ionica, the Cambridge telecoms group in return for the right to use Ionica's wireless telephony equipment in Scotland (Martin Waller writes).

Ionica, which plans a stock market flotation by the end of 1996, refused to discuss the deal. But Nigel Playford, managing director, did confirm a deal had been struck with an unnamed new partner.

ScottishPower is keen to build its telecoms business and has formed Scottish Telecom, a subsidiary, for the purpose. Ionica is unique among fledgling telephone groups struggling to emerge from BT's shadow because it has chosen digital radio broadcasting rather than land lines.

Search begins for new chief of GEC

Weinstock to go next year

BY MARTIN WALLER
GEC has formally launched a search for a successor to Lord Weinstock, one of Britain's most successful post-war businessmen, who has confirmed he will be retiring as managing director next year.

The 71-year-old Lord Weinstock has tantalised the stock market with his intentions since last year, when he said he would spend another two years at the group he largely created. Lord Weinstock is an expert at the finely crafted but non-committal phrase, and outsiders noted that his words did not automatically preclude an extension of his rule.

GEC shares were rising sharply last week on hopes of a management shake-up, and another jump looks likely this



Weinstock: 32 years at top

morning in response to the latest twist, contained in an interview in The Sunday Times with Lord Prior, the GEC chairman.

Lord Weinstock, a lover of

racing and music, commands respect in boardrooms up and down Britain. But critics have said his extended valediction has undermined GEC's share price and has prevented decisive action, such as the long-rumoured bid for British Aerospace.

He joined Radio & Allied Industry, the company that became GEC, in 1954 at the invitation of his father-in-law and became managing director in 1963, setting the group on course for growth through numerous acquisitions.

GEC has now drawn up a shortlist of candidates for his post from both inside and outside the company. Not on the list, it is thought, is Lord Weinstock's son Simon, 43, who has been seen as an eventual successor.

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The future ends here

My bleak,
imaginary
vision of
Britain under
the heel of
Brussels



ANDREW ROBERTS

The rot started to set in half a century ago, thought Horatio as he waddled asthmatically up the Mall, long before the Nomenclature Directive 10/307. Left-wing Labour councils had begun dropping the names of Victorian municipal worthies from roads, town halls and community centres to replace them with those of nationalist liberation leaders.

By the late Nineties you had Ararat Close, NW10 and Biko Drive, NW1. Now there were even moves for a Gerry Adams Crescent in Kilburn. So perhaps it was inevitable that Horatio's namesake, the admiral who had done so much to stymie Britain's chances of being at the heart of 19th-century Europe, should have been removed from the column in Schuman Square. As Graham Kentfield, Chief Cashier of the Bank of England, had said of putting Nelson on the banknotes in January 1993: "It might upset our European neighbours." From then on only rigidly Euro-friendly people were allowed on to the currency, such as Founding Father Edward Heath, whose grin adorns the EEuro50.

Maastricht Terminus had once been Waterloo Station. One could hardly have had our fellow citizens of the United States of Europe being offended the moment they arrived here. But Horatio wondered, as he made his way towards the square, whether Founding Father Delors had been the right person for the top of the column? He had created the formal union at



London, circa 2045: an imaginary postcard from a Britain under the boot of Brussels commemorating new heroes

Maastricht, of course, as every schoolperson knew, but it wasn't until 2004, with the replacement of sterling with the Euro-pound, that Britain could really have been said to have at last divested herself of her outmoded independence.

To his right Horatio could glimpse through the trees, past the towers of the Commission Headquarters in Whitehall, the top of Big Ben. He had never much liked the Westminster Heritage. Amenity and Leisure Drome. He felt that the draughty corridors and two huge chambers — now swimming pools — would have been better used as some sort of regional assembly like the ones they had in Wallonia, Wales, Greater Serbia and the Islands of Ireland. The place was said to be haunted by an ethereal "Lady in Blue" who on November 22 every year could be heard crying "No! No! No!"

As he reached Admiralty Arch, Horatio turned back to gaze at Attali House, the regional headquarters of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, "the Glistening Bank" as it was respectfully called. In the previous decade the bank had spent no less than 14 billion Euros on its Old Masters collection, corps of valets, world famous cellars and free tickets over the Channel Bridge for homesick executives. They rather begrudged the half billion earmarked for regional economic projects, surmising that they were largely a sop to discourage further disintegration as demanded by the Manx, Cornish and Tyne independence movements.

The building's original owners, the Mountbatten-Windsor family, had found that there was little point in staying there. Once their constitutional role had disappeared their *raison d'être* had entirely disappeared. Like every other (pre-Classless) aristocrat family in financial difficulties — and who wasn't, considering Frankfurt's tax regime on anyone earning the Maximum Wage — they found that

neither opening the place to the public nor taking in paying guests enabled them to make ends meet. When the century was in its teens they had taken up New Zealand's generous offer.

At 64, King William V was a popular monarch, whose coming visit to London was keenly anticipated, especially by those Nats who supported the English Resistance Movement (ERM). This had come into existence at about the time when the English region of the United States of Europe had to agree to surrender the Malvinas.

The Commission held three successive all-night sessions to discuss the British request to send a Task Force to liberate the islands, but had finally agreed not to allocate the necessary expenditure. Greek and Dutch Commissioners had argued that it would increase inflation if they were to embark on a risky military adventure 8,000 miles

away for a few islands over which Britain should have ceded sovereignty decades before. The German Commissioner believed that the Union had "no strategic or economic interest" in the islands, and of course the Spanish Commissioner agreed that they rightly belonged to Argentina anyhow.

With all financial policy-making, gold reserves and expenditure decisions located at the Frankfurt Central Bank there was nothing the British people could do. It was in part the sense of humiliation and anger over this which had led to the creation of the ERM.

As Horatio stood with his back to Schuman Square, he could see the huge flag flapping in the breeze some 900 metres to the southwest. Horatio realised that he had never even seen its predecessor, the Royal Standard. Indeed he had hardly ever seen the Union Jack either. From the history books it looked like an ungainly collection of saints' flags interposed haphazardly on one another and often flown upside down. It was just a bald, territorial symbol with none of the spiritual, almost religious significance of that halo of 12 gold stars. Nobody had had to fight or die for the flag yet, except of course in Estonia, although plenty of athletes had exerted themselves in the Perrier Steroid-Free Olympics.

Having another half hour to kill, he scanned the Sis Vex column on his pager. There were ads for the Euro-Rivers Authority, the Commission Trading Standards Office, the Sexual Harassment Denouncement Bureau, the Regional Relations Commissariat, the Common Agricultural Policy Police, the Nationalist Symbols Squad (Flags Division), the Sexual Hygiene Inspectorate and the Differently-abled Entitlements Bureau.

If Britain had not voted for complete union at the Aachen referendum 30 years before, he thought, would there be today all these jobs in the various agencies? He fast-forwarded his pager but still they were there: the Sandhurst Military Academy Gay and Lesbian Awareness Course Instructor Unit, the Cholesterol Curtailment Commission, the Country Sports Vigilance Unit, the Competitive Sports Abatement Department and so on and so on and so on.

Is all this fact or fantasy? With Bernard Connolly's revelations, Kenneth Clarke's declared affection for a florin and Chancellor Kohl's determination to follow Maastricht to the letter, I for one am no longer sure. So I took a sabbatical from writing about the past to try to look into the future.

Andrew Roberts's new book *The Aachen Memorandum* is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £15.99.

Kate Muir meets Mary Karr, whose story of her madhouse Texan family life is a bestseller

When Mary Karr set out to write a memoir of her Sixties childhood in a gritty, grotty Texas oil town, she asked the writer Tobias Wolff for advice. "Take no care for your dignity," he said. "Don't be afraid of appearing angry, small-minded, obtuse, mean, immoral, amoral, calculating, or anything else."

Karr pinned his letter above her desk, abandoned dignity, and started *The Liars' Club*, an autobiography without shame, published in Britain tomorrow. Few writers could handle an alcoholic, overdriven mother who marries seven times; a nutty, vindictive, one-legged grandmother; and an insomniac family who spend much of their time in their underwear. Fewer still could set such characters in the town *Business Week* magazine voted the tenth ugliest on the planet, and still play the story for laughs.

Unexpectedly, *The Liars' Club* became a bestseller when it was published in America earlier this year, and Karr went from an obscure poet with two slim volumes to the toast of the literary world.

Teaching literature part-time at Syracuse University in upstate New York, Karr was not exactly flush, and came to a Dickensian agreement whereby her publishers paid whenever she posted off a chapter. Thus she accepts her new-found celebrity, interviews and packed author readings warily, not sure whether fame will remain. In her kitchen, over coffee, she laughs about Hollywood buying the film rights to her book and adds: "Hey, I don't care if baboons play me and my family in the movie."

The writing is of more importance — she is far more pleased that the doctor in her home town of Leechfield bought seven copies of the book, and that hundreds of people turned out for the reading in the local library.

The book opens in 1961 with her strongest memory, when that same family doctor arrived in the middle of the night. Karr, then seven, was sitting with her sister, pulling her blue flowered nightgown over her knees. "Show me the marks," said the doctor. "Come on now, I won't hurt you."

For years, Karr was unable to recall the events which led up to this moment. She only knew that afterwards her mother was declared "nervous" and taken away to hospital. She adds: "I should explain here that in east Texas parlance the term 'nervous' applied with equal accuracy to anything from

Search for the truth in the liars' club



Mary Karr: the book was cathartic

chronic nail-biting to full-blown psychosis." After a long haul through drugs, alcohol and therapy, Karr managed to fill the black hole in her memory and understand why her family was so peculiar, explained in the *dénouement* of the book. Writing the memoir was, for her, a final filing of the past.

But what of her mother and father? The eye which Karr casts over her family is piercing and painful, leaving no embarrassment unturned, just as Wolff suggested. Karr shrugs. "When I was writing, my mother said, 'Hell, get it off your chest, but I soon learnt that any writer who wanders into the muddy waters of childhood drowns a little.' Yet after Karr gave her mother the finished draft, they both ended up in tears, sitting on her wooden porch."

"I didn't particularly have a sense of my mother being some monster or villain. After I showed her the first piece that appeared in *Granta*, she seemed almost more interested in the clothes she was wearing at the time

than what she did." Mrs Karr was much prone to grand fur coats and silk dresses, but Karr herself escaped becoming a Texas belle, the look epitomised in the television series *Dallas*.

"They have earrings the size of kitchen appliances," she notes. Instead, she is lithe and dark in shorts and a rumpled white shirt, looking far younger than her 41 years. It is her older sister, Leicia, who was bigger and blonder, who became a successful Texan woman, sartorially and financially. While Mary was running round America, going through various universities and jobs, Leicia was clinching major deals in Southern real estate.

"Leicia's never been in therapy. It's not her thing. She's a stoic, and was throughout everything that happened. But there's a price you pay for that. So this book has been cathartic for her."

At seven and ten, Mary and Leicia spent a great deal of time keeping their alcoholic, crazy and rather wonderful mother out of trouble. They became part-time adults. Now, Karr is very much aware of the contrast between her childhood in a humid madhouse and that of her nine-year-old son, Deveraux, in a pleasant suburb.

Karr grew up among the children of working-class oilmen. When she found she was too small to win fights, her father suggested she should bite rather than hit. "Lay the ivory to 'em, Pokey." The Texans show no tendency to sentimentality, "either in words or deeds. When Karr ran away at 15 to Mexico, no one came after her. Instead, her family followed the great Southern tradition. "Hell, they just figured that wherever I was headed, it had to be better than Leechfield."

Until recently, women relied more on fiction than naked memoir, to express their lives. Karr expects that to change. "I think there was a feeling that women were the keepers of the family secrets and it was somehow unfeminine, indecorous to write about your family. But the domestic can be just as compelling as some great political or war memoir."

The people of Leechfield (not its real name) are most pleased that the life of a dysfunctional family in a very functional town has been immortalised. "There isn't any literature out of Leechfield, yet there were people I'd shot at from trees with my airgun coming to my book-signing. That was very satisfying."

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At present 70% of people are not entitled to income support for mortgages. For those who are, on 1st October 1995 the Government cut back the mortgage allowance payable to them.

In other words, if you already have a mortgage and fall ill or are made redundant, you'll receive nothing for the first two months, and then only 50% of the interest payments for the next four months.

Even worse than that, if you took out your mortgage after the 1st October 1995, you won't receive a single penny in support for the first nine months. The problem is most home owners think this doesn't concern them. They forget that redundancy, illness and accidents come out of the blue. And to make matters worse, almost half of them think they've got mortgage protection — when in reality only about 30% of them have.

But it's not all doom and gloom. For the average mortgage holder, peace-of-mind costs about £15 a month. Cover lasts for a full twelve months and most home owners are eligible, including the self-employed, part-time workers and fixed-term contract workers.

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Uncovering the mysteries of the elusive neutrino □ A map of the solar system □ Protein link to Alzheimer's disease

DOES the neutrino have mass? Please don't ask the team at Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico who first reported the claim in the pages of *The New York Times* six months ago.

They have just published their results in a more usual outlet, *Physical Review Letters*. And while 39 members of the team are sticking to their guns, one has had second thoughts. Dr James Hill, of the University of Pennsylvania, has published a second paper in the same issue of the journal, saying that the data do not justify the conclusion drawn.

These are deep waters, but worth exploring. The neutrino was long believed to be a massless, chargeless particle, a more fragment of nothing, but present throughout the universe in innumerable quantities. Because of its evanescent quality, it can pass through anything without being noticed: hold out your hand and ten thousand billion neutrinos from the Sun will pass through it

A something out of nothing

in a second. Neutrinos are real, despite their ghostly qualities, and come in three different kinds: electron, muon, tau.

A few solar neutrinos can be picked up in detectors buried underground, where no other particle can penetrate. But far fewer neutrinos from the Sun have been detected than ought to have been, if our models of the Sun are right.

One possible explanation for this is that neutrinos can transform from one kind into another, a process that would enable them to evade detection.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

But if they can transform, or "oscillate" as the physicists put it, then they must have mass. Hence the excitement when the Los Alamos team claimed to have observed oscillation.

They did so by creating muon anti-neutrinos in an accelerator, and trying to detect them changing into electron anti-neutrinos. In this context, anti-neutrinos should behave in the same way as neutrinos. But the experimental statistics are fragile, and open to more than one interpretation, which explains the disagreement.

Now a new experiment that might settle the argument has been recommended for support by the United States Department of Energy. The idea is to generate a stream of neutrinos at an accelerator outside Chicago, and send them down a tunnel into the Earth. More than 500 miles away, a detector buried in an old iron mine in northern Minnesota would detect them.

By counting them out and counting them in, physicists could tell if any had "oscillated" en route. The accelerator would produce muon neutrinos, and the detector in Minnesota would see if any had changed into tau neutrinos. If they had, it would mean that muon neutrinos have mass, and therefore probably constitute a large part of the "dark matter" cosmologists believe is spread throughout the universe.

This definitive experiment will cost \$135 million, and won't produce results before the end of the century even if the money can be found. But the implications for physics, astronomy and cosmology are so huge that it would be a great pity if it wasn't done.

We are here

TWO American astronomers have finally worked out where we are. Their efforts have provided our solar system with the equivalent of a galactic postcode, recording just where it lies in the Milky Way.

Our galaxy is a vast rotating disc-shaped gathering of stars, with a bulge in the middle. It is 100,000 light years from rim to rim, and about 1,000 light years thick. But working out exactly where we are in it is rather like standing in the middle of a forest and trying to guess where its edges lie by counting the trees.

The solar system is believed to lie about halfway between the central bulge and the rim of the disc, but there has been much less certainty about the distance to the galactic plane, an imaginary line bisecting the disc from rim to rim.

Dr Roberta Humphreys, of the University of Minnesota, and graduate student Jeffrey Larsen

believe they have now calculated this, by the simple technique of counting the number of stars you can see looking either "up" or "down" through the galactic disc.

A position precisely on the galactic plane would see an equal number of stars in both directions. In fact, they found that the solar system must lie about 68 light years above the galactic plane, close to the middle but not right on it. The result, as well as satisfying curiosity, will help astronomers making observations of the galaxy who often have to take the solar system's position into account.

Back on song



THE way birds learn to sing could shed new light on Alzheimer's disease, according to Dr David Clayton of the University of Illinois and colleagues. They have studied the learning curve of the zebra finch and unearthed a protein, which they have called synelfin, which

seems to be vital to the process. Songbirds begin to listen to the songs of a tutor bird, usually their father, at the age of about three weeks. Silent at first, they soon begin to copy the songs.

Researchers have studied the area of the brain responsible for memorisation, and Dr Clayton and colleagues have now reported in *Neuron* that this part of the brain also produces large amounts of synelfin until about 35 days after birth.

After that, synelfin production falls sharply and virtually disappears from adult birds. So what is the link to Alzheimer's, a disease characterised by loss of memory? First, he says, synelfin is very similar in shape to apolipoprotein E, a protein which, in certain forms, seems to increase the risk of getting the disease. Furthermore, the human version of synelfin has recently been found by other researchers as a constituent of the brain "plaques" that are the hallmark of the disease.

"Certainly, this is a protein that's at the scene of the crime," he told *Science News*. But motive and method remain to be discovered.

The tale of an artist, a chemist and a long lost dog

Technical analysis of famous 18th-century paintings has revealed more than expected, says Giles Whittell

It is remarkable enough that one of the world's finest collections of 18th- and 19th-century English portraits should be found in a mansion in suburban southern California. Now, X-rays of the collection's most intriguing canvases have revealed ghostly shapes and details long since painted over, that give a rare glimpse of the impulsive

working methods of some of Britain's greatest painters.

Over the polished paragon of the Huntington Art Gallery, in San Marino, hang more than 100 important British and French paintings, including no fewer than 12 major works by each of Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds and George Romney. Bombarded with carefully measured doses

of X-rays, some of these artists' best-loved paintings turn out to have been painted on old, half-used fabric. Others went through wholesale structural changes between their first and final versions.

Shelley Bennett, the Huntington's curator, hoped the X-ray photographs would yield new technical data of the kind museums are now expected to include in catalogues. She did not expect to stumble on a lesson in Georgian women's hairstyles, a muttering melancholic muse or a disappearing dog.

Rays from invisible areas of the electromagnetic spectrum have long found uses in the delicate business of restoring and maintaining ancient oil paintings — but also in probing the mysteries of their creation. Infra-red analysis can pick out the carbon in the detailed charcoal sketches that Renaissance masters such as Raphael would draw before applying paint. (By contrast, it revealed little in the Huntington's British portraits because their painters seldom bothered with sketches.)

Ultraviolet rays can tell conservators about the depth and condition of varnishes and "overpaint" that may have been applied to a painting since its original creation. But it was X-rays, and their collision with the heavy metals used in the primitive paints available to artists of the Georgian era, that got under the skin of the Huntington's portraits with the most spectacular results.

The images that emerged from under later layers of paint did so for precisely the reason bones show up in an X-ray of a human leg: they absorb more radiation than the surrounding area, "and the image is created by the differential", explains Shelley Svoboda, a chemist and conservator who supervised the Huntington's X-ray project with Rosamond Westmoreland. In most cases where buried shapes appeared, the X-rays were being absorbed by a carbonate of lead used in many late 18th-century paints, although mercuric sulphide, used for vermilion, also shows up. In Gainsborough's *Cottage*

Door, a country scene arranged around a peasant family standing at their porch, the mother in the final version sports an elaborate bouffant hairdo. In the X-ray it is pinned tightly back behind her head. Version one was probably authentic, Dr Bennett says; version two, a concession to the landowner who commissioned the painting of part of his own property and required even his poorest tenants to appear radiant and richly groomed.

Sir Joshua Reynolds made some far more drastic changes to his portrait of Mrs Siddons as the *Tragic Muse* (1784). It features Mrs Siddons, a renowned 18th-century actress, floating above the ground on a throne with a shadowy, demonic-looking figure representing terror over her left shoulder. Reynolds's contemporary, Thomas Lawrence, called this the greatest portrait ever painted. If so, it was only thanks to major last-minute alterations. The X-rays reveal a large, winged puma tugging



Before and after: X-ray view, top, of Mrs Siddons as the Tragic Muse, left, and Blue Boy

at Mrs Siddons's skirt and a melancholic figure in the place of "terror", his left arm mimicking the actress's body language — thereby distracting our attention from it.

Less formal but equally famous is Lawrence's *Pinkie*



Bennett, however, *Blue Boy* (1770), a portrait of Gainsborough's friend Jonathan Buttolph, hangs opposite *Pinkie*. It first excited radiographers 55 years ago, when the white of an older man's cravat appeared above Buttolph's head, telling them Gainsborough had used an old canvas and painted out the cravat before starting afresh.

The new X-rays were taken one small rectangle at a time. When Dr Bennett saw a complex white object near Buttolph's left foot she thought at first it was a chrysanthemum. It turned out to be the paw of a dog, probably an English water spaniel. "It's his pouch! It's got to be his pouch!" the curator remembers thinking in her moment of discovery. Why Gainsborough painted it out even though it sits well in the composition remains a mystery, though Dr Bennett has a theory: the portrait that, down to Buttolph's blue jacket and breeches, is considered an act of homage to the work of Van Dyck 140 years earlier, in the reign of Charles I. "Dogs in those days were big mastiffs or not at all," she says.

FOCUS TALKS TO CONRAN ON CATERING.

FE Focus is the new section in *The Times* Educational Supplement devoted entirely to further education.

This week we take the lid off catering training in British colleges and find out why Terence Conran has set up his own training restaurant.

We also look at the Government's attempts to fund college renovation with private cash, and how LEAs are pulling the plug on disability funding.

The *Times* Educational Supplement, at newsagents this Friday.

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Matthew Parris



■ When scandal isn't scandalous any more, newspapers will have to provide something different

With sinking heart, I stared at Saturday's *Times*. It was no different from any of the other papers, broadsheet or tabloid. Almost the whole of the front page was devoted to a single story. "Tears as horrific case is outlined — QC tells Rosemary West jury of discoveries 'more terrible than words can express'".

If only, if only we really would accept that there are things more terrible than words can express. If only the words would ever cease. But having expressed ourselves too shocked to speak, we speak. Having judged a scene indescribable, we go on to try to describe it. Having found a case too dreadful to talk about, we talk about it. On and on.

And, glancing at that front page, I should like to claim that my sinking heart was sinking under the weight of dismay at the emerging facts about the Gloucester murders. But it wouldn't be true. The murders are awful beyond comprehension, and that's that. No, the heart sank for a more selfish reason. It sank because I was bored. It sank because Saturday's *Times* was signalling the imminence of weeks — perhaps months — of newspaper, magazine, television and radio news which will be of little interest to me. From now on and for a long time to come, whole reams of my own and every other newspaper will be, from this reader's point of view, a blank.

You see, I really don't want to read about it. I can't summon up much interest in the details. I simply skip. I skip as, increasingly, I skip "royal" stories these days. There are events, people and their doings which we find interesting, and there are those we do not. I skip royal scandals not out of delicacy but out of boredom. These scandals are routine and life is short.

There are credible motivations for wishing the Queen Mother many more years on this Earth, and I share them: less credibility is my sheer horror at the thought of weeks of sugary retrospectives, blocking every airwave and crowding every paper. One may have to go abroad.

On Queen Victoria's death in 1901, Shaw wrote to the *Morning Leader*: "Sir, I am loath to interrupt the rapture of mourning in which the nation is now enjoying its favourite festival — a funeral. But in a country like ours the total suspension of common sense and sincere human feeling for a fortnight is an impossibility."

The Editor declined to publish this. Doubting whether the intervening 94 years have much altered editorial judgments in these matters, I had better get this in now while, happily, Her

Majesty is in good health. What sort of research is conducted, I wonder, into the influence of particular stories over customer decisions to purchase a newspaper?

It is doubtful whether asking customers would be the way to learn. As the Editor of the *News of the World* will tell you, people are prone to declare their disgust that a newspaper should give prominence to a story, and then eagerly buy it. Indeed, the division of public opinion into those who think the press "ought" to cover a story and those who think it "ought not" is false. Both these sections of our readers are likely to devour the story — the one blithely, the other guiltily, both avidly.

In human nature, the propensity to be shocked at published or broadcast material, judging it offensive, undignified or harmful, is quite close to the propensity to be drawn (whether or not protesting one's horror) towards it. I often suspect that the natural censors among us are driven by an unacknowledged fear of the vulgar, more violent or perverted sides of their own natures. When it comes to the privacy of a newspaper's circulation manager can put them in the same category as the openly prurient: they buy, they read, they relish. They complain.

For some of us, the news or gossip or violence is not shocking, it is just boring

But there is another group among us: one which I doubt circulation managers acknowledge. We are not (if we are to be honest) so much "shocked" by the Gloucester murders as uncomprehending. We are not shocked by dog excrement on the pavement, but since there is nothing in it for us, we step round it. We step round nasty stories about crime and violence. That something is not very nice does not — for us — necessarily arouse great curiosity about it.

During the Bulger case, we listened to less of the news. During flare-up periods in the various royal marriages, we decide more often not to bother with a Sunday paper. For the next month or so, as the Gloucester case unfolds on Fleet Street's front pages, we shall be turning straight to page two. When those Hollywood police "action" movies appear late at night on our televisions, we stare at the people gunning each other down and blaspheming, not in horror or even (particularly) disgust. We stare blankly, uncomprehending as to what viewers see in this sort of thing. The sound of gunshots is just a noise. Frankly we are not shocked: we are simply bored.

Editors, directors of programming and circulation managers, please remember us.

If Alan Howarth thinks that new Labour will be less authoritarian than the Tories, he has a shock coming

Howarth beware: Blair is no wet

William Rees-Mogg

The key sentence in Alan Howarth's letter of resignation did surprise me. "There is an arrogance of power and a harshness within the Government which is damaging to our democracy and to the quality of relationships in our society."

I have been a critic of John Major, and still regard him as too Baldwin-like, too much of a conciliator rather than a strategic leader, but he seems to me to be a Prime Minister of singular personal modesty; he is more free of the "arrogance of power" than most Prime Ministers, although in practice the limitations of the office impose a certain humility on most of those who reach Downing Street.

I do not get a sense of the arrogance of power from this Government — indeed it has often seemed not half arrogant enough. John Major's administration can be criticised for having been too impressed by civil servants and expert opinion (as in the administration of the health service reforms) by Brussels and our European partners (as in Michael Howard's policies at the Home Office). By Thatcherite standards, John Major may be too flexible a Prime Minister. Alan Howarth was an enthusiastic Thatcherite; her more forceful leadership may have shown some of the arrogance of power, but Alan Howarth found that quite acceptable. It is John Major's arrogance which is too much for him, though the only instance he gives of it is that the Prime Minister did not answer one of his letters for six months.

Like Alan Howarth, I have some admiration for Tony Blair's style of leadership. But Tony Blair is clearly more authoritarian than John Major. Right up to the top of the Labour Party, as every journalist knows, there is a much tighter discipline than could be enforced in the Tory

party. That may be justified; Tony Blair is a right-wing revolutionary in Labour Party terms. But it also springs from two different styles of leadership: Tony Blair is less tolerant than John Major, more the head prefect and less the first among equals. When Tony Blair's supporters say with pride that he is "a ruthless bastard", they are probably exaggerating and perhaps deceiving themselves, but nobody says such things about John Major, though his political adroitness is now widely recognised.

I can see some of the other defects Alan Howarth finds in the Tory party that he is leaving, but not the selfishness of the party he is joining. "Hostile and discriminatory attitudes to foreigners and minorities exist in a wholly unacceptable way in the [Tory] party". About the Hong Kong Chinese? Don't the same attitudes exist in the Labour Party, compounded by Jack Straw's sickening hypocrisy? Alan Howarth has been in Parliament for 12 years. He can hardly claim not to have noticed that there is prejudice and humbug on both sides. He was asked about the case of Liz Davies, which was a blatant example of central orthodoxy brutally imposed. No Conservative constituency association in modern times has been overruled in this way. He says it is not for him to comment on Liz Davies. He should have taken her case into account before he alleged that the party he was joining had "an

ethos of fairness and decency". Liz Davies was not treated fairly or decently; she was put in a sack and dumped in deep water.

I was also somewhat surprised by Alan Howarth's reference to education. He was himself an Education Minister, and before that he was a teacher and the son of a headmaster. He must be well aware of the sad post-war history of British secondary education. It is largely a story of the failure of Labour's egalitarian policy. Tony Blair knows that secondary

education still needs radical reform, though Roy Hattersley asserts that the comprehensive schools, a massive experiment in social engineering, have been a great success. The Conservatives have done something, though not enough, to reform the system they inherited in 1979. Alan Howarth simply writes that "Labour convincingly puts education at the top of its agenda". Anyone can put an objective at the top of an agenda; we can all put winning the lottery at the top of our agendas. But what are Labour's policies? Are they superior to the policies on which Alan

Howarth worked in the 1980s? Labour education policy still seems hopelessly split over whether to put equality first, or excellence.

Tony Blair is determined — rightly in my view — to bring to an end the Labour Party's reputation as the high-tax party. He does not want to raise taxes, and some taxes he wants to cut. A Labour government would continue to spend somewhere around 43 per cent of the national income. Most welfare costs, including pensions and health, will continue to rise for demographic reasons; the average age is rising. Under Labour as under the Tories, there will continue to be conflict between limited public revenue and rising public expenditure; no doubt the electorate will continue to want tax cuts. Perhaps at some point a government will be elected with a radical policy to cut expenditure, but neither party yet offers that promise, and the public is probably not yet willing to support it.

Given these commitments, the policies of the two parties cannot be very different from each other, although Tony Blair may be more ruthless in his reform of the welfare state. Every Opposition talks about cutting out waste and about the benefits of higher growth. Probably Tony Blair would cut out some wasteful public expenditure, as John Redwood would have done. There is nothing in Labour Party policy which is likely to improve Britain's long-

established growth trend of around 2 per cent. Gordon Brown will be presented by the same Treasury officials with the same figures showing the same limited room for manoeuvre. Tony Blair knows he is not going to find a private goldmine in the garden of Downing Street.

Alan Howarth turns this limited choice into a Hollywood epic of good guys and bad guys, with the Conservatives wanting to cut back on welfare and education, and Labour, being committed to "fairness" and generosity. It is not going to be like that, which is why Tony Blair, again rightly, has refused to specify any major increase in spending. He believes that the British electorate is not willing to pay higher taxes, and that a commitment to higher taxes could lose Labour the next election.

When Alan Howarth went to see him, it was Blair who asked pressing questions about whether Howarth really knew what he was doing. That shows that Tony Blair really is the honest man one had always supposed, and that he is much more realistic than Alan Howarth. Which ever party wins the next election will find that the budget sums are getting steadily more difficult. Tony Blair knows that, but to judge by his resignation letter, Alan Howarth does not.

It is ridiculous for wet Tories to imagine, as Alan Howarth seems to, that Labour can find the resources to fund the wet Tory agenda. It is just possible that Tony Blair, because he is not a wet, will be tougher in reconstructing the welfare state if the funds run out. The whole case for Tony Blair is that he, like Margaret Thatcher, does possess the "arrogance of power" which helps political leaders to take the sort of unpopular decisions that the wets are always against. His personality is much closer to Norman Tebbit than to Alan Howarth's.

Ghosts of government past

Now the Tories, not Labour, must show they are fit to govern, says Peter Riddell



Imagine it is May 1997 and the Tories have won a fifth term. How did I think this could happen, a veteran political observer asked me last week in Brighton? After spluttering something about global or personal upheavals, wars or deaths, my answer turned on Labour yet again tripping up before polling day: an internal party row in which the forces of "old" Labour defeated Tony Blair. Two points later struck me about this reply. I had assumed, first, that the next election was Labour's to lose, and second, that however hard the Tories now try, it would be very hard, if not impossible, for them to turn themselves into winners.

This is the real importance of Alan Howarth's weekend defection to Labour. It is not just that his timing is as damaging as it could be for the Tories, on the eve of the party conference. It is not just that it highlights Mr Blair's apparent Midas touch and John Major's image as a loser increasingly deserted by fashionable opinion and business titans. The real significance is that Mr Howarth's justification chimes in with public worries about the Government's unfairness and harshness. His move hits the Tories where they are most vulnerable, reinforcing the sense that their time is running out: very hard, if not impossible, for them to turn themselves into winners.

Events and actions during a campaign can change the outcome from a landslide to a narrow squeak or vice versa, making all the difference for many MPs in marginal seats. Yet the result of most elections reflects a deeper national mood. In 1992, despite the recession and the scars of the Thatcher years, voters saw the Major

Government as new and gave it the benefit of the doubt compared with their continuing fears about Labour under Neil Kinnock.

The onus of proof has now shifted. Black Wednesday and the lengthy Tory divisions over Europe helped to knock away the previous props. Confidence in the Government collapsed, and has never really recovered, while Mr Blair has been able to remove many of the fears about Labour's fitness to govern. No matter that questions remain about the financing of Labour's policies and about the depth of "new" Labour. No matter, either, that the Major Government has become a reasonably competent administration over the past two years: despite such obvious blunders as rail privatisation, it is certainly better than the disastrous last Thatcher Government of 1987-90.

These points are offset by the discernible change in the public mood. Tory MPs frequently echo James Callaghan's now hackneyed, but still valid, comment in 1979 about sea-changes in politics once in a generation, when public attitudes shift and it does not really matter what the ruling party says or does.

Mr Major knows that his task has become much harder since 1992. But until Mr Howarth's announcement, he could hope, for the first time in four years, that the party conference might not damage him or his party.

The leadership election has transformed the internal Tory scene. The weakness of Mr Major's position only four months ago is vividly brought out by Sarah Hogg and Jonathan Hill in their book *Too Close To Call*, the first insider account of the Major premiership. Their style can at times be over-hearty — a kind of "Famous Five in Downing Street" story — but they do show how trapped Mr Major had become by party divisions.

But he is now secure: even his personal poll ratings have started to pick up. He also has what he believes is his best Cabinet since becoming Prime Minister. The errors of the July 1994 reshuffle have been corrected. Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney are giving energy and direction to the Tory counter-attack. They look after day-to-day presentation, giving Mr Major more time to work on developing policies. An initial territorial spat between Mr Heseltine and Michael Howard was quickly sorted out when they were

called over to Downing Street, and has not recurred.

Party critics have also become quieter, accepting that speaking out of turn will be unpopular. Any rise this week on the conference fringe from the sceptics is likely to be more of a marker for the future than a warning of imminent revolt. For the moment at least, there is a truce between the Tory factions, however great their underlying differences.

These are important pluses for Mr Major. But they will not overcome the public's doubts about the Tories. The leadership is hoping for a repeat of the 1986 conference, when, after rows earlier in the year over the Westland affair and the sale of Land Rover, the party successfully relaunched itself with the "Next Move Forward" slogan. The aim this week is to give the impression that, with Thatcherism now dead, the party is buzzing with fresh thinking.

Since an election may still be more than 18 months away, this will be merely a first stage, concentrating on initiatives for the rest of this Parliament and general themes for later, such as increasing personal provision in welfare. On Friday, Mr Major will set long-term goals for reducing public spending to less than 40 per cent of national income, while seeking to sharpen differences from Labour on taxes, inflation and Europe.

Mr Major has been telling friends that the habit in his family is to open a few presents on Christmas Eve, most on Christmas Day and leave a few for Boxing Day. For him, the Blackpool conference is Christmas Eve. The main manifesto proposals are still being discussed and will not start to be unveiled until next spring. The snag is that many voters no longer regard him as an avuncular Father Christmas. The changes in the Tory leadership since July, this new policy thinking and the tax cuts to come this November, and probably next, should all help to reduce Labour's lead. But they look unlikely to be sufficient to reverse the "time for a change" mood which Mr Howarth's defection has so dramatically highlighted.

Tsar turn

A MOUNTAIN of romantic correspondence between Tsar Nicholas II and the Tsarina of Russia is to be published for the first time.

The Russian State Archive has thousands of love letters covering the couple's entire life together — from their first encounter in the late 1880s until just before their murder in 1918 — and this week the British publisher Weidenfeld & Nicolson will announce at the

Frankfurt Book Fair that it has secured a publication deal. In addition to the letters, which are written in English, there are diaries and correspondence from Queen Victoria (the Tsarina's grandmother), Edward VII and George V. But the most exciting discovery in the archive is a detailed exchange between the Tsar and his wife about Rasputin, the bearded monk and self-styled

quack who had such a hold over the royal family. The letters clearly indicate that they believed he could cure their fifth child and only son, Alexis, of haemophilia.

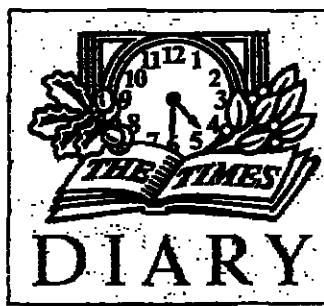
"The whole problem of Rasputin is contained in these hitherto undiscovered letters," says Ian Trevelin, of Weidenfeld. "No one before now has ever known what the Tsar and the Tsarina themselves thought about Rasputin."

Conservatives in Alan Howarth's Stratford-on-Avon constituency have not been slow to wreak revenge. A haughty message on the constituency office answerphone reads: "that we are no longer legally or ethically in a position to act on behalf of Alan Howarth MP, and directs the world to try another number: Howarth's private line at home."

Enemy lines

AS A fresh-faced youth straight from Cambridge, Alan Howarth was employed by Field Marshal Montgomery as chief research assistant on his book *A History of Warfare*. Monty spotted his leftish leanings even then.

There is no evidence that the great battlefield strategist had divined that Howarth had it in him to



defect to the enemy, but on one occasion, as his young son walked into a dinner, he barked: "This is Alan Howarth, who is helping me. He's a Socialist, you know."

Jilly Cooper has the jitters after finishing her latest novel, *Appassionata*, about the intrigues in an orchestra. "It's like being a teenage girl going on dates again — sitting by the phone waiting in a state of terror for editors to call."

The bad life

RICHARD BRIERS has discovered that self-sufficiency is not the Good Life. He has owned up to a brief, ill-fated attempt to imitate Tom and Barbara, the characters in the TV sitcom in which he starred with Felicity Kendal.

"The runner-beans ran into the trees while I was on tour, and all the digging gave me what is laughingly called an embossed disc so I had to go to the osteopath at twenty quid a session," he says in next month's *Country Living* magazine.

The lettuce and radishes had to be covered with netting and the birds would get under it. I thought: I can't stand this."

He has one message for anyone thinking of following suit. "Don't do it up at four, flat out till 10, working all the hours God gives you. It's a mug's game."

Flexible

AFTER completing a prison sentence for hitting his lover's psychiatrist, the hereditary Labour peer Lord Monkswell spent 18 months unemployed. Then last month, a chance conversation with an electrician who needed a mate secured him a short-term contract: wiring up the House of Lords.

"During all of September I was in my jeans and lumber-jacket, working on the cabling for the information superhighway," says the peer, who is best known for letting in the lesbians who abseiled into the chamber to protest at anti-homosexuality legislation. "Some of my colleagues spotted

me, but didn't say anything. It was great fun. I've been under the floors, in the basements, even down the manholes in Black Rod's garden." Now he's back on the dole and open to offers.

John Prescott Sr — father of the politician — was on a train down to the Brighton conference last week, armed with his customary packet of sandwiches and flask of brandy, when he struck up conversation with a lady who asked him his name. "Prescott?" she exclaimed.

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"They are doing some initial filming on the river at Cliveden, but the main casting has yet to be finalised," Topolski tells me. Daniel Day-Lewis is considering taking a major part. "A Hollywood script-writer has completed four drafts, so we are getting there," Topolski is acting as a consultant while working with the current Oxford crew; after rejoining as director of coaching last year.

"We call him Tory because he's not very faithful"

"You must be the father of John. I know a hundred women who would be ready to go to bed with him."

Darker blue

THE MOST turbulent episode in the recent history of the Boat Race is being steered towards the big screen. The infamous mutiny of the Americans in the Oxford crew in 1987 is to be made into a feature film based on the book of the revolt by Dan Topolski.

In *True Blue*, Topolski, who coached Oxford 12 Boat Race victories, tells how he helped a team of no-hopers to victory in the race after the transatlantic stars walked out on him in a bitter disagreement over the presidency of Donald MacDonald.

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P.H.S



Rasputin and the Tsar and Tsarina: all is revealed

السلامة العامة



A NARROW CROSSING

Howarth tries on Labour's conservative new clothes

When Tony Blair made his brazen appeal last Tuesday for "One Nation" Tories to switch allegiance, only he knew that he had a personal target in his sights. Alan Howarth — Conservative MP, former minister and party vice-chairman — was then on the brink of conversion to the Labour Party. His announcement yesterday that he was to cross the floor of the House of Commons, the first MP to move in that direction, could not have been better timed to cause his former party maximum embarrassment.

Conservatives gathering in Blackpool today had been hoping for an upbeat week, a relaunch akin to the famous conference that Norman Tebbit stage-managed in 1986 to lift the party out of its Westland woes. This summer had been typically good for the Tories and unseasonably bad for Labour. With the Tory leadership question settled, the Conservatives expected to gather ammunition from divisions at the Labour Party conference the previous week. But after last week's almost seamless Labour performance, the Tories need a conference just as successful as Labour's merely to stand still. Mr Howarth's carefully orchestrated defection could knock them off balance.

The Tories will do their best to forget their discomfort. In Blackpool, Mr Howarth's name may not be uttered in public. But his conversion will be more than a one-day wonder. Quite apart from the permanent effect it has on John Major's Commons majority, it will promote the change in Labour's image from irresponsible Opposition to putative Government-in-waiting.

Defections at this late stage in the electoral cycle add to the impression of war-weariness on the Tory benches. Whether it is hitherto right-wing journalists flirting with Mr Blair or British Telecom bidding to cable the country under a Labour administration, the seepage of the great and the good towards Labour adds to Mr Blair's appeal. It makes

each individual voter's leap of faith — which switching from Tory to Labour would undoubtedly be — a little less daunting.

One man's personal odyssey, however, should not be seen as an objective statement about the health of the Conservative Party. Mr Howarth's highly idiosyncratic path from the radical Right — as a firm supporter of Thatcherism — to the Left of the Conservative Party in recent years is at least as breathtaking as his defection. As William Rees-Mogg points out on the opposite page, Labour's record on education — Mr Howarth's prime reason for joining Labour — is hardly its strongest suit. His claim that the Tories have become too right-wing does not ring true. Except on Home Office matters, the Conservatives have if anything become more liberal over the past few years.

Mr Howarth's change of political allegiance tells us more about the Labour Party's own lurch to the centre than any change in Conservative policy. There are increasingly fewer areas of policy now on which Mr Blair and an old-fashioned left-wing One Nation Tory would disagree. Arthur Scargill, mounting the charge from the old Left, claimed yesterday that new Labour is now "indistinguishable from the Tory party". Despite this hyperbole, the defection of a former Tory minister across the tribal lines of political parties is a political landmark — made possible only by the demise of the SDP and the rise of Anthony Blair.

Ministers will be struggling this week to find a charge against Labour that will stick. To complain that Mr Blair has stolen their clothes will have little force: voters might prefer the newer model. Nor will attacks on Mr Blair's own sincerity hit the mark. The Tories must highlight mercilessly the gap between Labour's rhetoric and the in-substantiality of the means that it proposes to achieve its ends.

NATO PREPARES

Wanted, a new Nato Secretary-General for its hour of trial

Six Bosnian women and children died and many more were injured at Zvornik yesterday, when a Serb cluster-bomb hit a refugee centre. They could be among the last victims of the war. The day before, Serb fighters had attacked the Bihac "safe area", unchecked by Nato. Operation Deny Flight is on hold: the alliance is staying deliberately aloof from these fierce but inconclusive struggles for territory. The reason is simple. Tomorrow night, the ceasefire brokered by Richard Holbrooke is due to take effect throughout Bosnia. From Washington to London, Paris and Moscow, the name of the game now is to ensure that this ceasefire becomes the bridge to political compromise.

Anticipating a peace settlement within weeks, Nato defence ministers have agreed to accelerate planning for an alliance-led "implementation force" for Bosnia. They must view this eleven-hour targeting of a refugee centre with foreboding. It may be only a minor incident in fighting that has already maimed and killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, but it serves to underline the risks in this, Nato's first major ground operation. For Nato will be policing a peace without trust, a bitter partition.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, acknowledges the difficulties and knows that for Nato, "failure would be catastrophic". Militarily, Nato's plans are on the right lines. The unworkable "dual key" arrangement with the UN which paralysed Nato for months has persuaded even the French of the absolute need for unity of command under Nato. That will be assured by Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps: it can be deployed rapidly, averting a perilous hiatus between the signing of a political accord and its implementation. The contingents manning the confrontation lines will be equipped not only to defend themselves but to deal with armed obstruction of the mission. The UN will revert to a purely civilian role.

Politically, the picture is cloudier. The Americans are most concerned — and right-

ly so — by the problems that Nato command presents for Moscow. The US wants the Russians on board, to prove to the Bosnian Serbs that they cannot hope to play to the gallery of pan-Slav sentiment. President Yeltsin wants to participate; the talks in Geneva yesterday between Mr Perry and General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, were at his request. Some arm's-length arrangement that keeps Russian troops under the same broad umbrella is therefore likely to be worked out.

The second problem is money. Britain and France, whose troops will rank next in importance to the Americans in Bosnia, are already owed millions for peacekeeping by the United Nations. The main reason is that the US owes the UN \$940 million in peacekeeping dues. This is a battle with Congress that the Clinton Administration cannot avoid.

Most worrying by far is the near-vacuum in Nato itself for which one man is responsible: its Secretary-General, Willy Claes. Mr Claes was an uninspired choice for the job in the first place; he has now become such a serious liability that he should be told in the bluntest language to resign. Belgium's highest constitutional court does not lightly seek the lifting of a parliamentarian's immunity; the charges are corruption, forgery and fraud. Mr Claes protests his innocence, but it is no longer a matter of guilt or innocence in the Agusta affair, but of the damage he will do Nato by staying on.

He claims that this is no moment to desert the ship; but his mind is not on the job. Last week, he said that his diary was too full to attend the North Atlantic Assembly, its parliamentary wing — a blunder reversed only when he was told how deeply he had angered key members of Congress just before they debate Nato's mission in Bosnia. It is precisely because Nato is embarking on a critical test that its leadership must be rock steady. Mr Claes now seems certain to be cloistered for weeks with his lawyers. He cannot simultaneously be on the bridge.

LEVEL HEADS

Universities are not in business to compensate for poor schools

Many private school heads and parents have come to sense an antipathy among university admission tutors to the "over-privileged" private pupil, amounting in some cases to explicit prejudice. Their anxieties are difficult to evaluate. What determines individual decisions on applicants must always be at the discretion of universities themselves and particular instances of bias are difficult to prove. But these fears are prompting many parents who want their children to have a good chance of Oxbridge entry to withdraw them from private schools after the fifth form and place them in a state sixth-form college with a suitably egalitarian image.

The Headmasters' Conference and the Girls' Schools Association have tried to ascertain the truth. They have found a dozen cases which they feel show clear-cut evidence of bias against their pupils. In at least one case, a private school applicant was set considerably higher entrance requirements than a state school candidate.

This should come as no surprise. Several Cambridge colleges are known to demand lower A-level results from state pupils than from private ones. They argue that given the lower teaching standards and less support-

ive atmosphere in state schools, it is right to seek out able pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and make allowances for their poorer performance. But with a finite number of places, this reduces the chances of many high-performing private pupils; and as with all kinds of positive discrimination, there is a tendency for meritocratic impulses to merge into inverted favouritism.

What may have begun as well-intentioned fairness can harden into politicised class-war. The battleground is singularly ill-chosen. Many private pupils come from working-class families who are either benefiting from assisted places or are making great sacrifices to pay school fees. A good many state school entrants are the products of sophisticated middle-class parents who are topping up inadequate schooling with the best private tutors that money can buy.

To accept lower standards for state pupils would be to damage all pupils in the long term. Instead, universities should be demanding improvements in state schools — seeking to "level up" rather than to penalise teenagers for the good fortune of a sound education. Blanket prejudices are always dangerous, and never more so than when they determine access to the life of the mind.

Nato expansion and safer Europe

From Sir Richard Luce and others

Sir, Writing from the Toronto conference of the Atlantic Treaty Association we endorse the assertion in your leader of September 29, "Strategic priorities", that the paramount issue confronting Nato is whether its expansion will make Europe safer.

The West must continue patiently to make it clear to the Russians that they will be warmly welcomed if they are prepared to develop closer links with Western Europe; that Nato is a defensive alliance; that we would welcome even closer collaboration with Russia; and that we will do everything possible to encourage reform and to promote stability, whilst at the same time stimulating a positive Russian engagement in international affairs.

The pursuit of a policy to enlarge Nato, in whatever way may secure a safer Europe, alongside a developing dialogue and partnership with Russia, requires a high level of leadership from the West.

Clearly we cannot allow Moscow to have a veto on the enlargement of Nato, if by enlargement we are confident of a more secure Europe. We believe that it is the overwhelming interest of us all that Russia should have a peaceful and prosperous future and play the constructive role that her position deserves in the international community.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Chairman.
PATRICK DUFFY,
Deputy Chairman.
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
Director.
Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom,
As from: Atlantic House,
88 Lower Grosvenor Place, SW1,
October 4.

From Sir S. Z. Baland

Sir, I read with astonishment and sadness the two letters in your edition of October 4 arguing against the extension of Nato to the east.

I am sure that the leaders of Russia do not for a moment believe that an expanded Nato will suddenly launch an imperialist campaign against Russia. What many Russians have in mind, as indeed some of them have already stated, is to rebuild their empire — and they want a free hand to do so when the opportunity arises.

Yours sincerely,
S. Z. BALANDA,
Ivy Cottage, The Street,
Wainfield, Dids, Norfolk.
October 4.

From Mr Edmund M. Majewski

Sir, Mr Ralph L. Broughton (letter, October 4) regards the proposal for an eastward extension of Nato as "tantamount to a revival of the Cold War".

Had he been thrown out of his house, lost most male relatives shot by the Russians, his mother deported somewhere to the other side of Krasnoyarsk and at the age of 18, as I was then, sent for five years' gulag in Siberia, all for being Polish, he might welcome this "Nato plan which is plainly provocative".

Yours sincerely,
EDMUND M. MAJEWSKI,
10 Aphington Avenue,
Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.
October 4.

From Mr A. B. Ratcliffe

Sir, Can it really be possible that, only six years after the Iron Curtain was removed, Russia and the West are once again squaring up to each other? Can nothing be done to bring the people responsible to their senses?

Yours faithfully,
A. B. RATCLIFFE,
38 Bradwell Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
October 7.

University pay

From the Chief Executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association

Sir, I know of no vice-chancellor or college principal who thinks that any staff in higher education are well paid (Mr Macfarlane's letter, October 2).

On the contrary, most believe that the recent massive expansion of higher education has been subsidised by staff. Over the last decade pay in higher education has barely kept pace with inflation. In contrast, the pay of schoolteachers has moved up in line with the rise in earnings in the economy as a whole.

In private, the leaderships of all the major political parties admit that something has to be done about the chronic underfunding of all aspects of higher education, including pay. None thinks it is an immediate political priority. Staff and students in higher education and their families are the only ones with enough votes to change their minds.

For Mr Macfarlane to blame the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (or UCEA) for this state of affairs is to mug the messenger.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROUSE, Chief Executive,
Universities and Colleges
Employers Association,
12-14 Whitfield Street, W1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Rationing' and patients' interests

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, Rationing has become an emotive term in healthcare reports. October 5. It is a useful battle cry to rally the supporters of the NHS who are a very large majority of the electorate. It conjures up visions of the austerity years in which the NHS was born. But it can be misused.

There are dangers that almost any attempt to make health services more efficient ("cuts") will be branded as rationing and that the implementation of research findings which show people can be better treated at lower cost might be jeopardised. Many improvements in treatment cost less, not more.

If it becomes politically incorrect to look for ways in which the NHS might be made more cost-effective, then many opportunities to improve the standard of care will be lost.

The reporting of the purchasing intentions of Berkshire Health Commission ("cuts in treatment provoke fears of NHS rationing", September 27) illustrates these dangers, particularly in relation to wisdom teeth removal. This is one of the most frequently performed operations in both the NHS and the private sector. But research has shown that prophylactic removal of wisdom teeth, which neither are nor ever have been diseased, is not in patients' interests.

The Berkshire Health Commission and other health authorities must not be hamstrung in implementing a policy along these lines. If their intention is to protect the interests of patients by ensuring that an outdated approach to wisdom teeth removal, with all the misery and cost it entails, is prevented,

then well done. Many are profoundly grateful that similar changes occurred in relation to tonsil removals in the 1960s.

Such an approach is not rationing. It is sensible policy.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,
University of Wales College of Medicine,
Department of Oral Surgery,
Medicine and Pathology,
Dental School,
Heath Park, Cardiff.
October 5.

From Dr Graham Prowse

Sir, You report (October 3) that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, says many doctors nowadays are not using the most modern treatments for their patients.

Last night I attended a national neurology meeting to discuss a new drug which offers the greatest hope of arresting the progression of multiple sclerosis. This drug is not cheap, costing about £11,000 per annum per patient.

The message from the Department of Health was that there would be no new money available this year, and probably not next year, to allow for funding the cost of the drug via health authorities or GP fundholders, and also the back-up services required.

Perhaps this explains it, Mr Dorrell. Yours faithfully,
G. D. W. PROWSE,
The Limes Medical Centre,
65 Leicester Road,
Narborough, Leicestershire.
October 4.

Allowed to die

From Mr Jonathan Montgomery

Sir, In your brief report today of the decision of the Jersey Royal Court to permit life-sustaining treatment to be withdrawn from a severely brain-damaged child it is wrongly stated that in Britain treatment may be withdrawn only from patients in a persistent vegetative state (PVS).

A series of cases involving children have established that treatment may be withdrawn if it is in the interests of the child to do so. The English courts have recognised that, in some circumstances, continuing medical treatment merely because it will prolong life is not in the interests of young patients. It may subject them to pain and discomfort for no real benefit.

Under the current law, the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment from children may be taken by the parents and health professionals without reference to a court.

Help with mortgages

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, The Government must resist calls to take panic measures to revive the housing market ("Lenders seek stimulus for housing market", Business, October 5). Massive subsidies to buy houses can only result in another artificial state-sponsored boom. What we need is stability.

However, the Government must not ignore warnings of a new repossession crisis. Statistics published in July by the Council of Mortgage Lenders show a 4 per cent increase in repossessions, the first rise since figures peaked in 1991.

The reductions in income support for mortgage interest for unemployed homeowners will add to the one thou-

sand families and individuals losing their homes to mortgage arrears every week.

What we need is a mortgage benefit scheme for unemployed and low-income homeowners, paid for by the savings from cutting mortgage interest tax relief. Mortgage rescue schemes to help repossessed owners stay in their homes as tenants or part-owners should also be promoted.

Only then can we hope to stem the rising tide of repossessions which will ultimately result in more homelessness.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HOLMES,
Director,
Shelter,
88 Old Street, ECI.
October 5.

A case for Dalglish?

From Mr Gordon M. J. Smith

Sir, Baroness (P. D.) James (letters from Mr Richardson and Mr Shepherd, September 30) rightly objects to suggestions that she should abandon her poetic detective, Commander Adam Dalglish, in favour of working-class policemen, patiently combating drug-pushing, child abuse and juvenile violence in the inner cities, where the detection is mundane, the crimes squalid, and the villains predictable.

The great amateur detectives, Poirot, Wimsey, Campion, even Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown, were remote from reality, and have been replaced by scholarly professionals like

Dalglish and Inspector Morse. They still have the freedom from the tiresome chores of daily life that makes their subtle deductions and clues fascinating, and a challenge to the reader's intellect.

If crime writers succumb to politically correct guidelines, with strict censorship of a growing list of forbidden areas, such as ethnic minorities, feminists, old people, fat people, etc., to whom no derogatory characteristics are permissible, their sales will decline, and they will have to think seriously about their means of livelihood.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON M. J. SMITH,
9 Greenfield Way,
Sturminster, West Sussex.
October 6.

Street signs

From Dr H. A. Osmaston

Sir, If street signs were conspicuously displayed (Dr Hudson's letter, October 4; also letter, September 29) it would save countless delivery drivers, unlicensed minicab drivers and ordinary people much time, money and frustration. Many other cities such as Delhi can set us a good example. But having found our way to the right street, we then have to find the right building.

Too often we have to count along a series of *Mon Repos* and *Dunrobin* to find number 7, and 100 often the modern shopfront or office block bears no number. Should not local authorities enforce regulations to make the conspicuous display of numbers compulsory?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY OSMASTON,
Finchwaite Cottage,
Finchwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria.
October 5.

The Orkney vole

From Dr Duncan Heddle

Sir, The temperature of my Orkadian blood is up.

The view (report and leading article, September 30) that the ancestors of the present-day Orkney vole were introduced by early settlers (thousands of years before the "Ur-Norsemen" of your editorial and well before the "Bronze Age" of your report) has long been seen as more credible than either a land-bridge migration or an indigenous origin at the species level.

Your leader is incorrect in implying that this animal is a "genus" peculiar to Britain; but the subspecies *Microtus arvalis orkadensis* is unique to Orkney.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN HEDDLE,
University of Aberdeen,
Department of Zoology,
Tillydrone Avenue,
Aberdeen.
October 2.

National failure to reduce obesity

From Professor M. E. J. Lean

Sir, I have been concerned about the delay in publishing the report on obesity submitted over a year ago by the government Task Force on Nutrition and Physical Activity (report, September 29; letter, October 2).

As the prevalence of overweight in the UK is still rising at an alarming rate it is clear that prevention at national level has not been effective and that current treatment strategies of diet and exercise are not working for many patients in the long term.

There are a whole host of reasons why people become obese. Genetic, social and psychological factors all play a part in the context of a high-fat diet and in a generally inactive population. For these reasons, and from a consideration of its health consequences, obesity must be considered a disease in its own right.

It has a specific group of symptoms including breathlessness, back pain, arthritis, tiredness and sweating which affect millions of people. It is a primary cause of several important diseases (heart disease, diabetes, insulin resistance, hypertension and certain cancers) and contributes to many others as well as complicating recovery from surgical procedures.

Overweight or obesity is immediately recognisable to most of us but it is the result of a slow process of weight gain which is often difficult to detect. This disease should be diagnosed and treated by a physician at a stage before there is major weight gain and permanent damage done.

The identification of individuals at high risk, such as those with a family history of diabetes, heart disease or hypertension, is important. Also, it should be remembered that even modest weight loss (5-10 per cent of body weight) can bring significant health benefits and reduce mortality from associated diseases.

As a profession, doctors ought to be concentrating on developing new strategies for prevention and treatment which are more effective and will help people to maintain healthier body weights. They need to be supported by actions from other groups, both within government and in society as a whole, which recognise the hazards of physical inactivity and a diet that is too high in fat, particularly in younger people.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL LEAN,
University of Glasgow,
Department of Human Nutrition,
Queen Elizabeth Building,
Royal Infirmary, Glasgow G3 7ER.
October 5.

Contempt of court

From His Honour Judge John A. Baker

Sir, I was in the Lord Chief Justice's Court in 1949 when the Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, Mr Silvester Bolam, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for contempt of court. As he was being led away by the tipstaff to Brixton prison Lord Goddard turned to where some directors and other representatives of the *Daily Mirror* were sitting and said, to the best of my recollection: "Be sure that the long arm of the law does not stretch out and get you."

The court then adjourned. I wonder if it is now timely for the legal profession and others to consider who may be held responsible for the contents of newspapers' reports on stoppage of the Geoff Knights prosecution, October 5.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. BAKER,
The Crown Court at Kingston upon Thames,
Canbury Park Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
October 5.

Not so taciturn

From Professor Christopher White, FBA, Director of the Ashmolean Museum

Sir, Robert Hamilton would not have been pleased to be described (Obituary, September 30) as a former Director of the Ashmolean Museum, the establishment of which post, with its implications of centralisation, he strenuously fought. He was the last Keeper of the museum.

In 1961 he considered taking up the directorship of the Museum of Antiquities in Iran, not in Iraq. Declining this post, he did not opt "for a productive retirement", but continued working at the Ashmolean until 1972, when he retired. He did not resign. I only knew him in his 80s, when by no stretch of the imagination could he be characterised as "taciturn".

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WHITE,
The University of Oxford,
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
October 2.

In a pickle

From Mr Alan Root

Sir, Having made my apple chutney, I am now apprehensive that it will attract a windfall tax (letters, September 21, 23, 30; October 5).

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ROOT,
Thornwell Cottage,
Wincanton, Somerset.
October 7.

OBITUARIES

SIR FREDERICK DELVE

Sir Frederick Delve, CBE, former Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade, died on October 5 aged 92. He was born on October 28, 1902.

FREDDIE DELVE rose from the ranks to become the most distinguished fire officer of his time and the first to be knighted while still in uniform. He helped to set up the National Fire Service (NFS) in the war, played a leading role during the Blitz, then recreated the London Fire Brigade (LFB) in peacetime Britain. The "999" free emergency call system was among the changes that he helped to introduce.

Delve partly owed his career to a cruel gesture when he was a schoolboy in the First World War. While he was walking along Brighton seafront, a girl pinned a white feather to his jacket — a supposed badge of shame for young men not at the front. She had clearly mistaken the age of the tall 15-year-old. But Delve felt so humiliated that he ran home and swore he would join the Royal Navy. He signed up on his 16th birthday, less than a fortnight before the First World War ended.

The Navy trained him as a wireless operator and dispatched him to the Black Sea in a light cruiser, helping to evacuate British nationals fleeing from Bolshevik Russia after the revolution. As ex-servicemen hunted for jobs after the war, it was Delve's training and experience in the developing field of wireless which helped him to get his first job, with Brighton Fire Brigade. From this point in 1923, he never looked back.

Frederick William Delve was the son of a Brighton master tailor. His parents had had four daughters, and had given up all hope of a son when Freddie unexpectedly turned up, "like an afterthought".

Within six years of becoming a fireman he was a deputy chief officer. He had also won a diploma for rescuing a woman from a fire and five guineas for freeing a man trapped down a well. He had passed all his exams with flying colours.

In 1934, aged 31, Delve was given command of Croydon Fire Brigade, the youngest chief officer in the country that year. He at once introduced a strict daily training routine and prepared the way for Croydon to become the first radio-controlled service in Britain. In 1936 he led a team of six appliances to help to fight the historic blaze at Crystal Palace. During the same year, Delve joined a Home Office committee which was planning an auxiliary fire service and henceforth became increasingly involved in preparations for the Second World War.

It was still based, however, at Croydon which suffered its first big air raid in August 1940 when many lives were lost and Croydon airport



Sir Frederick Delve, centre, at a 1983 reunion of the wartime fire services

was severely damaged. On December 29 and 30 he and his men were helping in London as 2,500 fires raged through the capital. He and others were well aware of underlying weaknesses, with 67 separate brigades in the London region. Not only was there no clear chain of command but much of their firefighting equipment was incompatible. Such anomalies prompted the birth of the NFS.

Delve was made deputy inspector-in-chief of the NFS in 1941, moving two years later to take charge of No 5 region covering London. He was also the official adviser to the Colonial Office on wartime fire defenses in the colonies. In 1940 he was awarded the King's Police and Fire Service Medal, and during 1941-42 served as president of the Institution of Fire Engineers. He was appointed CBE in 1942.

In 1948 he was given command of London Fire Brigade (LFB) with the task of re-forming the brigade after the war. Determined that it should regain its prestige, Delve drew up a training regimen like that he had introduced at Croydon. A stern memo accompanied his orders, reminding the 2,500 firemen that the strength of any chain was "no more

than its weakest link".

This led to conflict with the firemen's union which complained in 1949 that the men were being overtaxed and which passed a vote of no confidence in their chief. Delve's response was to organise a press demonstration in which he himself volunteered to play the victim, being carried down a high ladder from a fifth floor. The picture story made every front page, and the union protest melted before popular acclaim.

Two years later there was more industrial strife. The union, claiming wage parity with the police, organised an unprecedented "go slow" in November 1951. Delve promptly charged 1,400 men for breaching discipline.

In the following month, however, a serious fire broke out in a goods yard near Liverpool Street station, killing three firemen and injuring many more, including the deputy chief officer who lost a leg. Praise was heaped on the bravery of his men and Delve immediately sought permission to drop all charges.

Despite his reputation as a disciplinarian, Delve was never inflexible. Faced with a 14 per cent shortfall in

recruiting, he abolished the height and chest measurements requirement. He insisted only on a man being physically fit, and would try to give him some time to meet the standard.

His 14 years in command of the LFB were also marked by continual improvements in equipment. He rationalised the old network of control centres to create one brigade headquarters at Lambeth. At the same time he prepared a building programme for new fire stations and replaced the old petrol-driven appliances with powerful Rolls-Royce diesel engines.

It was Delve who got rid of the old street fire alarms, once a familiar sight throughout the capital. He argued in the face of fierce opposition that the system had outlived its usefulness. Costly to maintain, the alarms were being abused by drunks and hoaxers. Instead he persuaded the Post Office to replace them with additional telephone boxes and helped to develop the 999 emergency service.

Meanwhile, he fought to raise the status of his force by inviting celebrities to carry out inspections and take parades. Lords Mountbatten and

Montgomery were among them, while the Duke of Edinburgh was a frequent visitor.

After retiring from the LFB in 1962, the same year he was knighted, he joined the board of Securicor, rising to become a joint vice-chairman and then vice-president. He also acted as a consultant on training and fire prevention, displaying the same meticulous attention to every detail. He was made an honorary life president on retiring in 1985, aged 83.

Delve never lost his interest in the fire service. He continued to give lectures and write articles and, from his flat on the seaford at Hove, kept an eagle eye on his old force at Brighton. He wrote to congratulate the brigade on its performance when an IRA bomb ripped through the Grand Hotel.

He had married his wife Ethel ("Delvi") in 1924. He had seen her diving from a raft near Brighton pier and waylaid her as she came out of the water. She later confessed that she had seen him first and had carried out her diving routine to catch his eye. They were married for 56 years and Freddie Delve was broken-hearted when she died in 1980. They had no children.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Michael Thomas, entrepreneur, died in Hamburg on September 25 aged 79. He was born in Berlin on November 7, 1915.

MICHAEL THOMAS was an Anglo-German example of what wars can do to people. He was born into Jewish intellectual and artistic circles in Berlin, the son of the theatre director, critic and novelist, Felix Hollaender, his cousin Friedrich worked with Max Reinhardt and wrote *Falling in Love Again* and the rest of the music for Marlene Dietrich's film *The Blue Angel*.

When Ulrich Hollaender, as he was then known, was forbidden as a Jew to take his degree at Tübingen he emigrated to Britain in disgust, and changed his name to Michael Thomas. He was naturalised and during the war, after the usual spell for German refugees in the Pioneer Corps, was commissioned in the Army. The platoon he commanded called him the Prussian Baron because he made them clean their teeth and take a shower every day.

In 1944 he was liaison officer to the Polish division Countinno Caro and continued to work on similar projects, but with his own company. He retired in the mid-1950s.

He remained devoted to Britain. He married an English woman, Elizabeth Dring, sent his two sons to Eton, his daughter to Benenden, and wrote a memoir *Deutschland, England über Alles*. (His daughter Gina became the London cultural correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.) An excellent beggar, he was, like most chefs, a tyrant in the kitchen. His passion was politics.

Nothing delighted him more than to spend an evening setting the world to rights with the journalist Marion Dönhoff. He helped to set up *Der Spiegel* but though he disappeared of its politics, the Editor Rudolf Augstein was his close friend. He was choleric, perspicacious and exceptionally well-informed, a man of considerable charm who captured the hearts of the young as well as of his contemporaries.

He is survived by his wife, his two sons and his daughter.

uniform even if stripped of badges of rank. Thomas protested that for thousands of Germans these were the only clothes they possessed. Templer sacked him. Later, when they met in Singapore, they again got on good terms (not surprisingly, since Thomas had never ceased to praise Templer as the man who had prevented chaos in Germany in 1945). But meanwhile, in Germany, Thomas was left in the Control Commission at the mercy of staff who resented his easy access to Templer. When Thomas was called a Jew-boy by his commanding officer, he was disgusted and got himself demobilised, though he returned to the commission as a civilian.

Thomas was determined not to remain a rootless refugee and decided, in the late 1940s, to live in Germany. Adenauer urged him to go into politics but Thomas realised he needed a base, and instead he joined the great steel firm of Countinno Caro. There he made a fortune. He excelled in setting up "turnkey" projects in Third World countries where he built industrial complexes and then turned them over to those who were to run them. In the late 1970s, he left Countinno Caro and continued to work on similar projects, but with his own company. He retired in the mid-1980s.

He remained devoted to Britain. He married an English woman, Elizabeth Dring, sent his two sons to Eton, his daughter to Benenden, and wrote a memoir *Deutschland, England über Alles*. (His daughter Gina became the London cultural correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.) An excellent beggar, he was, like most chefs, a tyrant in the kitchen. His passion was politics.

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He is survived by his wife, his two sons and his daughter.

ALEX WARNOCK

Alex Warnock, DSC, wartime convoy escort veteran, died on October 2 aged 79. He was born on May 8, 1916.

ONE of the hard core of RNVR officers who survived the six years of the Battle of the Atlantic, Alex Warnock won the DSC when serving with the most successful of all the Navy's fighting groups, the 2nd Escort Group.

Born in Hampshire, he had only just started his career as a junior clerk at Barclays Bank's branch in Southampton when, as one who messaged about in boats in the Solent, he thought it natural to join the Navy in September 1939.

His first ship was the destroyer *Inglefield* which operated in Norwegian waters. Next he went to the corvette *Marguerite* on convoy duty, based on Freetown and Takoradi, taking convoys round the Cape of Good Hope and across the Indian Ocean.

Flower Class corvettes were so named, said Warnock, "because they could roll on wet grass." His final draft was to be "built-in" at the shipyard at Providence, Rhode Island, as first lieutenant of the Colony Class frigate *HMS Labuan*. Once worked up, she joined the Second Escort Group, whose senior officer was Commander David Wemyss, successor to the legendary quadruple DSO Captain "Johnny" Walker.

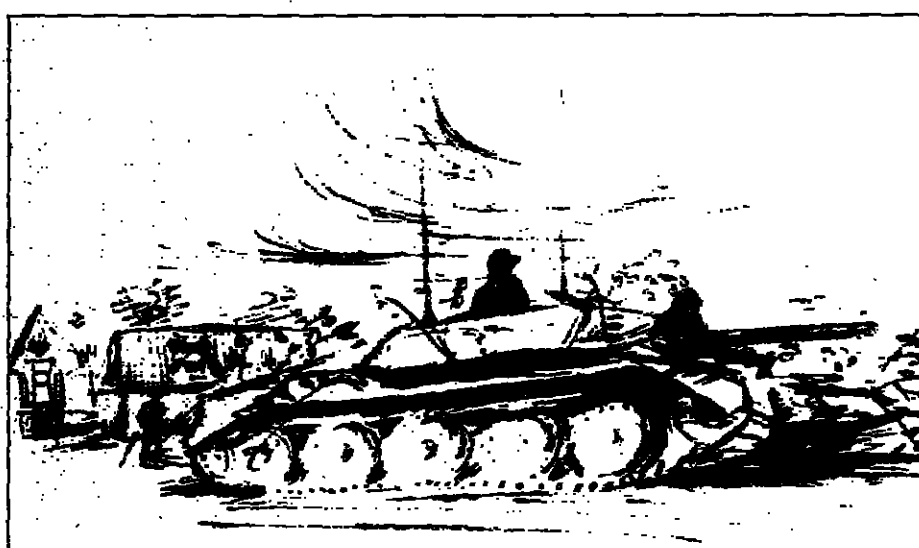
The *Labuan's* captain, a shell-shocked survivor of the desperate Arctic convoys of 1942, left the running of the ship entirely to Warnock. He soon welded the ship's company of 100 to a team within a team.

Operating relentlessly, often in foul weather and close in to the blacked-out coasts of Britain, the six warships of the group were unable to prevent two merchantmen in convoys being torpedoed before their eyes. But the sinking of the German submarine U1208 was largely attributable to the skill, leadership and determination of Warnock. She was the seventh sunk by the group after Walker's death and there were no survivors.

The following day, the U-boats nearly had their revenge when a torpedo, suspected to be one of the new and deadly homing "Gruats" (German Naval Acoustic Torpedoes) missed *Labuan* by less than 15 yards. Warnock's counter-attack with a shallow pattern of six depth charges was so fast that the shock of nearly a ton of RDX explosive unsated the ship's dynamo and broke a few ankles in the engine room.

After the war Warnock returned to Barclays Bank and in due course rose to become divisional general manager in charge of all the bank's properties throughout the United Kingdom. He retired in 1976. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 52 years, a son and a daughter.

ALEKSANDER ZYW



A tank of the Polish 24th Lancers sketched by Zyw on exercises in 1943

Aleksander Zyw, Polish war artist, died at Castagneto Carducci, Italy, on September 17 aged 90. He was born at Lida, then in Russian Poland, now in Belorussia, on September 14, 1905.

IN A wartime career which began as a machinist in France, Aleksander Zyw became a war artist, and followed the progress of Polish forces based in Britain as they trained for the invasion of Europe and then crossed the Channel to fight in Normandy in July 1944. His sketches evoke the atmosphere of the battlefield as well as the moments of repose that occur between action.

He had an eye for the unusual juxtapositions that are permeate war: a large artillery piece parked in front of the main door of Abbaye Cathedral; the jagged, warlike silhouette of a tank seen against the gentle undulations of the Normandy terrain; a corporal turned composer setting paragraphs for the Polish army newspaper. In a different vein are sketches such as *Bombing Enemy Lines*, August 14, in which the writhing smoke from explosions seems to dominate and dwarf the Normandy landscape.

Aleksander Zyw had two birthdays. Because of the in-

volved bureaucratic situation in the Russia of 1905, of which Poland was then a province, his actual birthday and that on his birth certificate differ by some months. His early years were spent in Warsaw where he read law and the history of art at the university. Thereafter he studied painting at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Art, being awarded a travelling scholarship in 1934 which took him to Italy, Greece, France, Yugoslavia and Austria. In his travels he experienced to the full the richness of nature and human life and this was the basis on which his work developed over the next 60 years.

He settled in France in 1934, living usually by the Mediterranean and in Corsica. At that time he painted in watercolour, oil, gouache or pastel, specialising in landscapes. He established a studio in Paris in 1936.

The advent of war in September 1939 interrupted this happy period and Zyw immediately returned to Paris and enlisted in the Polish army then fighting in France. After intensive infantry training he saw service as a sergeant in a machinegun company and in mid-June 1940 took part in heavy fighting near Lagarde, to the east of Nancy. When France surrendered, Zyw managed to escape to Britain via Toulouse, Barcelona, Lisbon and Gibraltar as did other Polish artists whose images of

war enriched their later output. Among them was Feliks Topolski, with whom he subsequently struck up a close friendship.

After some time in military camps in Scotland he was appointed war artist to the Polish forces in the West. The First Polish Armoured Division, which was for a time stationed in Scotland, provided Zyw with the opportunity to sketch the unit on duty and at leisure, tank crews, signalmen, artillerymen, cooks and orderlies. He drew people and events without mannerisms or undue pathos.

Zyw was with the First Polish Division in Normandy when General Macek landed at Arromanches in July 1944, and was involved in heavy fighting round Falaise and Chambois. He recorded many episodes during the battles, on flimsy paper with ink, pen, pencil and sponge. After many adventures he managed to get to Paris after it was liberated on August 24, 1944. There he found his studio intact, since it had been locked and sealed by the Nazis. Thus many of his prewar paintings were preserved. Zyw subsequently returned

to the UK and made his home in Edinburgh in the Dean Village, close to the centre of the city, where he published a book of drawings entitled *Edinburgh as the Artist Sees It*. It was in Bell's Brae House that he took up residence with his wife Leslie, and there his two sons Adam and Michael were born.

In 1949 he made his first postwar visit to Italy and Zyw believed this to have been a crucial moment in the development of his art. He was influenced by the wealth of the pre-Renaissance and Byzantine styles. From then on his

life was passed in Edinburgh and Italy until he finally settled permanently about 1961 near Castagneto Carducci, in the province of Livorno. There a studio formed an integral part of his house, situated in an olive grove and subsequently developed by his younger son Michael.

During his long life he held many exhibitions in places as varied as Warsaw, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Bradford, Paris, Milan, London, Bayeux and Parma.

For the last thirty years or so of his life Zyw's work was derived from meticulous observation of plants and natural forms and phenomena. In 1975 he produced a series of paintings inspired by his perception of the surface of the nearby Water of Leith, entitled *An Instant of Water*. This was followed by paintings on the theme *Air*, with such titles as *Hurricane* and *Meteor*. His preference at this stage was for the richer medium of oil. His final period was devoted to objects *trouvés* transformed into a spiritual context. Only towards the end was his work restricted to sketching.

Aleksander Zyw was a modest, affectionate, amusing and kindly man whose outward appearance belied many delightful inner qualities and a great zest for life.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Joan, and by their two sons.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
CAPTAIN: A N Du Port - Staff of 251 CNH 15.12.95; P E Duncan - Staff of 20 Portsmouth 8.12.95.
SURGEON CAPTAIN: J R C Carne - Drake 12.12.95.
LOCAL COLONEL: A A Milton - HQ 3 CDO BDE as BDE CMND 27.10.95.
COMMANDER: M B Avery - MOD London 5.1.96; S F Baldwin - MOD Bath 16.2.96; J A Boyd - Faslane 20.2.96; G W Browne - Yeovilton 12.1.96; G M Fairhurst - Staff of 251 CNH 3.11.95; B M Mason - MOD London 1.3.96; C J Varty - Drayton 19.4.96; A H Sinclair - Staff of CINCFLANT 15.3.96.
SURGEON COMMANDER: S D Evans - Sultan 16.4.96.
CHAPLAIN: B F Swabey - Dolphin 16.2.96.
Retirements
CAPTAIN: P E Du Vivier - 8.12.95.
COMMANDER: G R Ball - 30.12.95.
SURGEON COMMANDER (D): P G Edwards - Drake 27.12.95.
MAJOR: R O D Graham - 31.12.95.

The Army
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: J F Prain RE(SV) - To 42 Svr Engr Gp 9.10.95; K R Giller RS - To be CO Lowland (V) 10.10.95.
Retirements
BRIGADIER: J A Wright Late 16.5L - 10.10.95.
Royal Air Force
AIR COMMODORE: N M Griffiths - To MOD 2.10.95.
GROUP CAPTAIN: S J Colwell - To RAF Bournemouth 6.10.95; F L Turner - To HQ STC 6.10.95; D S Griggs - MOD 13.10.95.
WING COMMANDER: C A Britton - RAF Uxbridge 2.10.95; C Allen - MOD 2.10.95; J G Evans - RAF Laarbruch 8.10.95; P A M Kennedy - RAF Honington 9.10.95; P G H Hodcroft - HQ PTC 9.10.95.
Retirements
AIR COMMODORE: J H Spencer - 2.10.95.
GROUP CAPTAIN: J T G Rogerson - 11.10.95.
WING COMMANDER: A T Mitchell - 3.10.95.

Church appointments

The Rev Hugh Burton, Vicar, Pakington W, Normanton-le-Heath (Leicester): to be Team Vicar, Kidderminster St George Team Ministry (Worcester).
The Ven Peter Combs, Archdeacon of Reigate (Surrey), recently retired: now Archdeacon Emeritus.
The Rev Brenda Dowle: to be Chaplain's Assistant, Southmead Health Services NHS Trust (Southmead Hospital) (Bristol).
The Rev Brenda Dowle: to be Chaplain's Assistant, NHS Trust (Southmead Hospital) (Bristol).
The Rev Roger Elks, Assistant Curate, St Austell: to be Vicar, St Anta and All Saints, Carbis Bay W St Uny, Lizard (Truro).
The Very Rev Jeffrey Fenwick, retiring as Dean of Guernsey and Rector, St Peter's Port (Winchester): to be a Canon Emeritus of Winchester Cathedral.
The Rev Terry Hemmings, NSM, Winchester All Saints W

St Andrew, Chilcomb W, St Peter, Chesil: to be also Chaplain to St Swithun's School (Winchester).
The Rev Richard Livingstone, Vicar, Dryolsden (Manchester): to be Priest-in-charge, Wolverton W Norton Lindsey and Langley and part-time Chaplain to the Deaf in the diocese of Coventry.
The Rev Kim Mathers: to be NSM, St John W St Michael, Bournemouth (Winchester).
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Canon David Byford, Vicar, St Editha, Polesworth (Birmingham): to resign September 30.
Prebendary Alfred Vincent, Honorary Priest-in-charge, Chacewater and a Prebendary of Tyro Cathedral: to retire and be appointed a Prebendary Emeritus.

OBITUARY

MR. FRANK C. BOSTOCK

The death took place yesterday at Kensington mansions of Mr. Frank C. Bostock, the proprietor of "The Jungle" at the White City and of many other entertainment enterprises. Mr. Bostock was in his 47th year. He was a son of James Bostock, in his day a noted circus proprietor. His mother was a member of another family well-known in the circus business, the Wombwells. Mr. Bostock conducted a circus in this country about 20 years ago, but he disposed of it and went to the United States, where he acquired interests in a great many concerns. Mr. Bostock's career as a showman began when he was a boy of 16. It was not his father's intention: his father had him prepared for religious work, but he proved too strong. His first inclination towards animal training was shown in his 10th year. Annoyed at the cruelty of one of his father's lion-tamers, he begged his father to let him take the lion's place in the show. The father, however, would not allow him to do so, and the next day the son secretly entered the lion's cage. His father is reported to have said, "If ever you get out of there alive, my lad, I'll give you the biggest thrashing you ever had in your life." Young

ON THIS DAY

October 9, 1912

The names of Bostock and Wombwell were long famous for the spectacular circus acts they staged. Frank Bostock's mother was a Wombwell and he clearly inherited the courage and skill of both families.

Bostock came out unscathed, and eventually induced his father to allow him to take the place of the lion-tamer, who had meanwhile been all but killed by one of the animals. His school days were over, and he became definitely a trainer and showman. The time that he had spent in preparation for the ministry had not been wasted. It gave him a degree of culture which distinguished him from the old-fashioned type of showman.

Among his experiences in travelling the country with his menagerie, perhaps the strangest was in Birmingham in 1880, when one of his lions got into the city sewer. Something had to be done to allay public

anxiety, and Mr. Bostock put a lion in a cage in one of the sewer openings. Accompanied by three attendants, he entered the sewer some little way off, fired a gun, burnt Roman candles, and made a deafening noise. At a signal the cage was brought out, and every one believed that the lion had been re-taken. A large force of police co-operated with Mr. Bostock on the following night to capture the animal. Mr. Bostock, accompanied by three men and a bulldog, entered the sewer, and after a long pursuit, during which the dog was severely mauled, recaptured the lion. Not long afterwards Mr. Bostock went to America where his show became popular. Mr. Roosevelt on one occasion declared that the performance by a group of 23 lions was one of the grandest spectacles he had ever seen. It is understood that Mr. Bostock recently proposed to take the London Opera House with the idea of using it for the exhibition of animals. The negotiations were, however, broken off.

NEW LABOUR DAILY NEWSPAPER

The first number of the *Daily Citizen*, the new Labour daily newspaper, was published yesterday. It is a journal with a purpose, and it begins its career with high ambitions and a notable enthusiasm.

NEWS

Tory Left fires warning shot

In the aftermath of the shock eve-of-conference defection of Alan Howarth, the Conservative MP, to Labour, the Tory Left gave a warning that as many as 40 Tory MPs shared Mr Howarth's misgivings over the Government's social agenda.

Leading figures such as Sir Edward Heath indicated that while they had no intention of following Mr Howarth's example they were worried about a fresh lurch to the right in the face of Tony Blair's reinvigorated party. Pages 1, 2, 3

Juppé blames the gnomes of London

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, blamed "the gnomes of London" for speculation that sent the franc tumbling. In an attack recalling Harold Wilson's onslaught on "the gnomes of Zurich", M Juppé said that he would not cut the deficit to please the markets. Pages 1, 9

Powell flies in

General Colin Powell, the opinion poll favourite to be the next president of the United States, arrived in London to promote his best-selling memoirs. Pages 1, 10

Major tough on EU

John Major hardened his opposition to a federal Europe in a move aimed at establishing clear water between the Tories and Tony Blair's resurgent Labour party. Page 2

Light fantastic

A satellite designed to celebrate the United Nations' Year of Tolerance has strained the patience of astronomers who say it would reflect too much light. Page 5

Babies from China

Thirty British couples have successfully adopted a child from China over the past two years, when the Government made adoption from that country legal. Page 6

Exam grades row

Evidence that competition between examination boards is driving down standards at GCSE and A level will reopen the debate over "grade inflation" this week. Page 7

Vitamin A danger

Research at Boston University medical school has confirmed that an excessive intake of vitamin A is linked to various birth defects. Page 7

Girl tells how she outwitted gunman

A girl described how she confronted a gunman who shot dead two British tourists at a hotel in Morocco. Charlene Barker, 12, from Norfolk, saw the man shoot a woman. "Then he saw me. I said 'can you help with this woman?' He held a gun up and I held my hands up to my face while he shot and then I fell down and pretended I was dead." Page 5

Poor solicitors

Hundreds of solicitors are earning less than £10,000 a year and are at risk of going out of business, according to research for the Law Society. Page 8

Euro-justice criticised

A British lorry driver enjoyed his first weekend of freedom after 19 months in a Spanish jail, as a lawyer accused the European Union of failing to provide proper justice for its citizens. Page 8

Santer faces storm

The anti-nuclear anger of Europe's northern states is threatening to give Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, a rough ride as he seeks to defuse pressure for action against France. Page 9

Chinese uncertainty

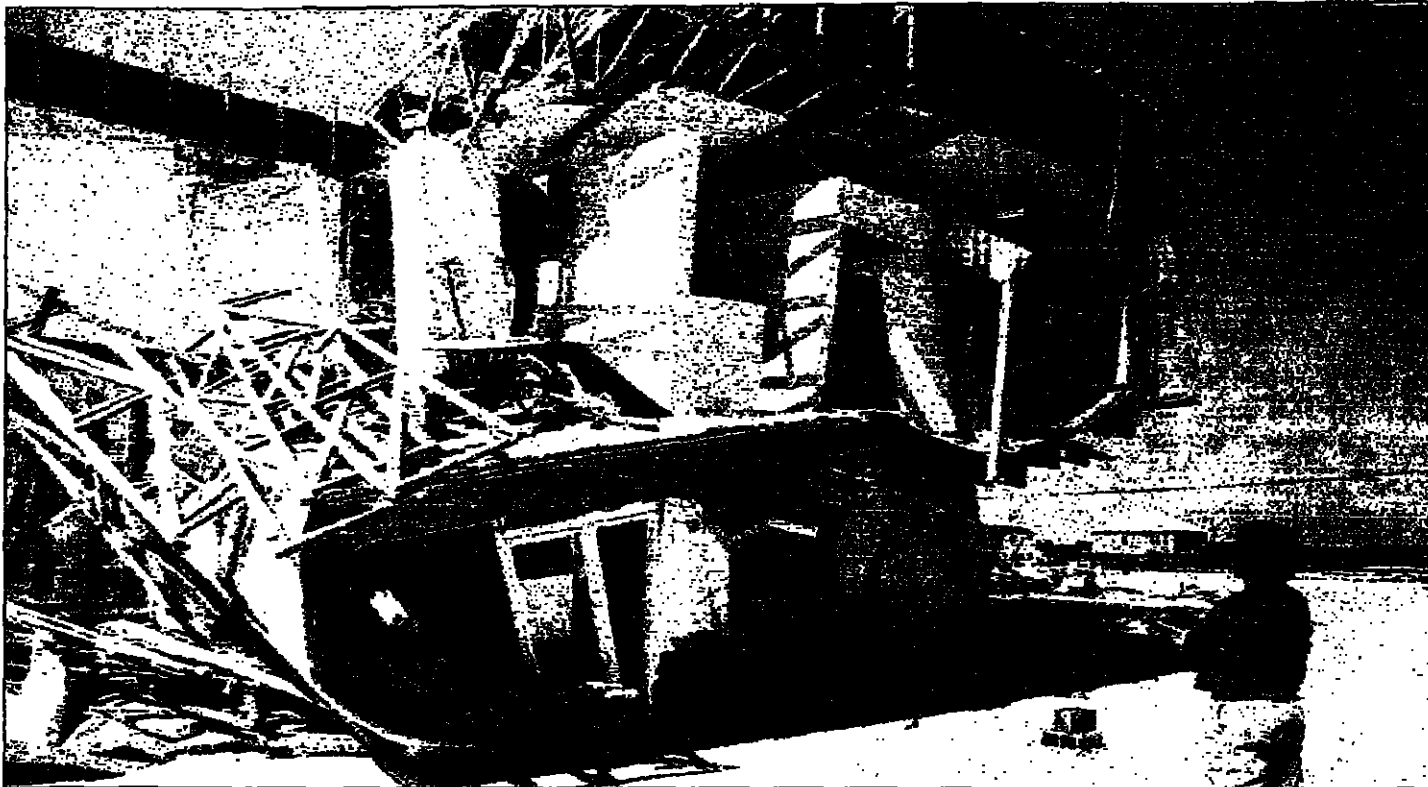
President Jiang Zemin of China, in a key speech that had echoes of Mao Tse tung, seemed to hint that a period of uncertainty could lie ahead. Page 10

Minister resigns

Japan's Justice Minister will resign today after allegations that he received an unreported 200 million yen (£13 million) personal loan. Page 10

Ceasefire battles

Bosnia's battlefields showed no signs of a truce as the warring factions fought for territory before the frontlines are frozen by an impending ceasefire. Page 11



Drew Giesen contemplates the remains of his house at Navarre Beach, Florida, which was hit by a hurricane last week

BUDGET

Budget hint: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, hinted at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund that the Budget could contain a tax cut. Page 40

Banking to grow: Lloyds, Britain's fourth biggest bank, is in expansionist mood and is refusing to talk down reports that an acquisition worth as much as £3 billion could be in train. Page 40

Power play: The City is braced for another bid for a regional electricity company this week, the fourth offer so far for Norweb. Page 40

Dirty money: Many foreign banks are not complying with British laws designed to fight money-laundering, and London is still seen as an easy place to hide the proceeds of crime. Page 35

ARTS

Right to reply: Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, replies to *The Times's* criticisms of the way cash for the arts is administered. "The international reputation of the arts in this country is very high," he writes. Page 12

High notes: Every once in a while everything comes together in an operatic performance. The Welsh National Opera's revival of *Idomeneo* was just such an occasion, the musical equivalent of lift-off. Page 13

Happy audience: Alan Jackson finds sincerity and stoutness of heart amid the good times at a Leavers' gig. Page 13

Building a library: Schubert's choral masterpiece, the Mass in E flat, is rediscovered. Page 13

FUTURE FEARS

Andrew Roberts shares his millennium nightmare of a Britain browbeaten by Brussels and under the rule of the Regional Relations Commission. Page 14

True lies: When Mary Karr decided to write a novel she kept it in the family and her account of life in a Texan madhouse became a bestseller. Page 14

Cosmic count: Scientists hope that neutrino numbers will throw light on the composition of the dark matter that remains an enduring mystery of the universe. Page 15

Artistic exposé: There is more to much of the work of great artists than meets the eye. X-rays are revealing secrets of their style changes. Page 15

BOXING

A convincing victory over Tommy Morrison puts Lennox Lewis in sight of his ambition to become the best heavyweight in the world. Page 21

Football: Juninho, the Brazilian footballer of the year, flies to Britain after signing for Middlesbrough in a £4.75 million transfer. Page 26

Rugby league: England provided a welcome boost for the World Cup with a thrilling victory over Australia, the favourites, in the opening game at Wembley. Page 23

Rugby union: Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, capped an unhappy afternoon by being injured as Wasps lost. Page 28

Golf: As rivals closed in on him in the final stages, Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, held his nerve to win the German Masters title. Page 22

Cycling: Chris Boardman set a course and lap record in making a winning return to cycling after breaking a leg in the Tour de France. Page 22

Angling: Anglers, who feel threatened by environmental pressures and the animal rights movements, are voicing their fears. Page 30

Racing: John Dunlop, who trains at Arundel, is closing in on his first trainer's title. In a 30-year career. Page 30

Cycling: Chris Boardman set a course and lap record in making a winning return to cycling after breaking a leg in the Tour de France. Page 22

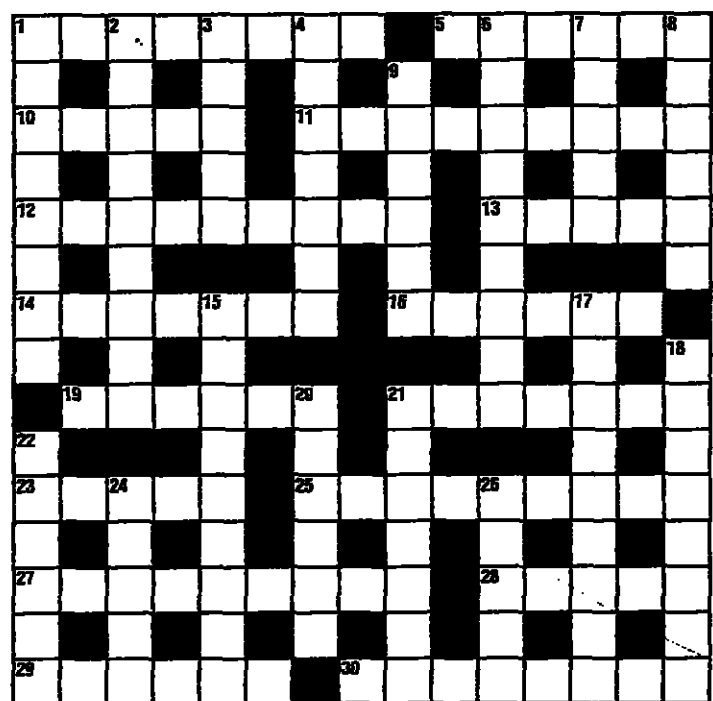
Angling: Anglers, who feel threatened by environmental pressures and the animal rights movements, are voicing their fears. Page 30

IN THE TIMES

NEW LIGHT
Cézanne revisited: a major exhibition in Paris turns a fresh eye on the work of the father of 20th-century painting

IN THE DOCK
Should solicitors be their own judges when shoddy service and bad advice loses cash and cases for their clients?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,981



- ACROSS
- Deposit forwarded when investing money in America (8).
 - Father in pain, but brave (6).
 - Cowardly execution of bird (5).
 - Declaration by international cricketers about a square (9).
 - A water bird endlessly returning to Scottish island for fish (9).
 - Giant bird with no tail (5).
 - Less than complete backing for leading figure in offensive (7).
 - Condescend to adopt southern fashion (6).
 - Overwrought from working to the limit (2,4).
 - They enjoy making painful scenes (7).
 - Scales needing calibration to some degree (5).
 - No engagement in view, so base abandoned (9).
 - Anxiety about contact with ancient Egyptian figure (9).

- DOWN
- Covering of grit applied to mount Spanish steps (8).
 - Turning aside from entertainment (9).
 - Mother embracing girl with heavenly gift (5).
 - Japanese ornament this country imported in course of tense struggle (7).
 - Expert cracked up outside Court (9).
 - Number not carried forward in division (5).
 - Former nurse to carry on (6).
 - One's boy getting name within Territorial detachment (6).
 - No theologian, bishop could be dismissed as surplus to requirements (3,3,3).
 - Boast by public utility to end a malfunction (9).
 - Mineral not required on Burns night (8).
 - Female employed in snack bar turning up with key to scrub out (6).
 - Desire among Poles to acquire English language (7).
 - Bring to light the origin of Equity on a legal basis (6).
 - Sandbank, for example, held up vessel (5).
 - Prisoner's existence on run (5).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,980 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockknock, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East of London	702
South East	703
West of London	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
North Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
West Midlands	712
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East Midlands	720
West Midlands	721
North Midlands	722
East Midlands	723
West Midlands	724
North Midlands	725
East Midlands	726
West Midlands	727
North Midlands	728
East Midlands	729
West Midlands	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East of London	732
South East	733
West of London	734
North East	735
North West	736
Yorkshire	737
West Midlands	738
East Midlands	739
North Midlands	740
East Midlands	741
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North Midlands	749
East Midlands	750
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West Midlands	754
North Midlands	755
East Midlands	756
West Midlands	757
North Midlands	758
East Midlands	759
West Midlands	760

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Preston, Cumbria, 25C (77F); lowest day temp: Stirling, 14C (57F); highest night temp: Exeter, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Stirling, 1C (34F).

FLIGHT SAVERS

London to Nice from £125 return.
London to Milan from £129 return.
London to Copenhagen from £149 return.

Phone Air UK on 0345 665777 or visit our website at www.airuk.co.uk. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability. Airport tax and differing travel periods. Restrictions apply.

FORECAST

General: Northern Ireland and western Scotland will see outbreaks of rain pattering out during the morning, with sunny intervals following. Eastern Scotland will cloud over during the morning with patchy rain or drizzle likely through the afternoon.

Northern and western parts of England and Wales will have a dry start but will become cloudy with the chance of patchy light rain through the afternoon. Central and southern counties of England will have another dry, very warm and fairly sunny day.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England: sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind south, light to moderate. Max 24C (75F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloud increasing, patchy light rain, clearer later. Wind south to southwest moderate. Max 21C (70F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: becoming cloudy with patchy light rain for a time, clearer later. Wind south to southwest, moderate, becoming fresh, becoming southwest, light to moderate later. Max 18C (64F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Scotland: rain clearing, then mostly dry. Wind southwest, moderate to fresh, decreasing later. Max 17C (63F).

Morey Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with patchy rain, clearer later. Wind south-southwest, becoming southwest, light to moderate later. Max 17C (63F).

N Ireland: rain clearing, then sunny intervals, showers later. Wind southwest, moderate, becoming south, fresh, later. Max 17C (63F).

Outlook: showers will affect far north and west. Remaining areas will be dry with sunny intervals.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Edinburgh	15	SW	Cloudy
Belfast	12	SW	Cloudy
Cardiff	16	SW	Partly cloudy
Manchester	17	SW	Partly cloudy
Newcastle	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Nottingham	19	SW	Partly cloudy
Oxford	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Plymouth	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Reading	19	SW	Partly cloudy
Sheffield	17	SW	Partly cloudy
Stirling	14	SW	Cloudy
Swansea	16	SW	Partly cloudy
Torquay	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Wolverhampton	17	SW	Partly cloudy
Wrexham	15	SW	Cloudy

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Azores	24	SW	Partly cloudy
Algarve	26	SW	Partly cloudy
Alentejo	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Andalusia	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Asturias	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Basque	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Batavia	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Bombay	32	SW	Partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Calcutta	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Canton	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Cebu	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Colon	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Hankow	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Hong Kong	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Kobe	20	SW	Partly cloudy
London	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Lyons	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Madrid	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Manila	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Mexico City	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Moscow	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Mumbai	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Nairobi	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Paris	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Peking	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Rangoon	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Singapore	30	SW	Partly cloudy
St. Louis	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Tokyo	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Winnipeg	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Zurich	18	SW	Partly cloudy

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Sheffield	17	SW	Partly cloudy
Stirling	14	SW	Cloudy
Swansea	16	SW	Partly cloudy
Torquay	18	SW	Partly cloudy
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Wrexham	15	SW	Cloudy

ABROAD

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Azores	24	SW	Partly cloudy
Algarve	26	SW	Partly cloudy
Alentejo	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Andalusia	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Asturias	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Basque	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Batavia	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Bombay	32	SW	Partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Calcutta	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Canton	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Cebu	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Colon	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Hankow	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Hong Kong	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Kobe	20	SW	Partly cloudy
London	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Lyons	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Madrid	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Manila	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Mexico City	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Moscow	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Mumbai	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Nairobi	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Paris	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Peking	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Rangoon	30	SW	Partly cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	28	SW	Partly cloudy
Singapore	30	SW	Partly cloudy
St. Louis	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Tokyo	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Winnipeg	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Zurich	18	SW	Partly cloudy

FORECAST

General: Northern Ireland and western Scotland will see outbreaks of rain pattering out during the morning, with sunny intervals following. Eastern Scotland will cloud over during the morning with patchy rain or drizzle likely through the afternoon.

Northern and western parts of England and Wales will have a dry start but will become cloudy with the chance of patchy light rain through the afternoon. Central and southern counties of England will have another dry, very warm and fairly sunny day.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England: sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind south, light to moderate. Max 24C (75F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloud increasing, patchy light rain, clearer later. Wind south to southwest moderate. Max 21C (70F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: becoming cloudy with patchy light rain for a time, clearer later. Wind south to southwest, moderate, becoming fresh, becoming southwest, light to moderate later. Max 18C (64F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Scotland: rain clearing, then mostly dry. Wind southwest, moderate to fresh, decreasing later. Max 17C (63F).

Morey Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with patchy rain, clearer later. Wind south-southwest, becoming southwest, light to moderate later. Max 17C (63F).

N Ireland: rain clearing, then sunny intervals, showers later. Wind southwest, moderate, becoming south, fresh, later. Max 17C (63F).

Outlook: showers will affect far north and west. Remaining areas will be dry with sunny intervals.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Edinburgh	15	SW	Cloudy
Belfast	12	SW	Cloudy
Cardiff	16	SW	Partly cloudy
Manchester	17	SW	Partly cloudy
Newcastle	18	SW	Partly cloudy
Nottingham	19	SW	Partly cloudy
Oxford	20	SW	Partly cloudy
Plymouth	18	SW	Partly cloudy